

# Reverend James Fitch 1



REV. JAMES FITCH, PINK PRINT I

Large map of the Norwich, Connecticut area

Original genealogy we got in the 1970's

1640 Map of Hartford, CT.

Whitfield House, Guilford, CT.

Saybrook and our trip story

Norwich, CT, and First Congregational Church

Around the green in photos

Norwichtown Cemetery

Leffingwell Inn

Lebanon, CT.

Rev. James Fitch tombstone and inscription

Trumbull Cemetery and gravestones

Connecticut History

Mr. Fitch's Mile, by John Townsend Fitch

How people lived in Connecticut

More Yankee than Puritan, Major James Fitch

William Bradford Genealogy

Bradford, in Plymouth, MA, cemetery

Samuel Fitch sketch, 1724-1799

Asa Fitch sketch, 1809-1879

Steamboat John

The Mason family pages, some Fitches included

Connecticut map

Barbara Long , PA Genealogy

Hartford, CT, Map

Norwich and Norwichtown brochures and maps

Trip story













Robert Warner m. Eliz. Grant  
Jacob Warner m. Eliz. Goodwin (?) m. dau. of Richard

HARTFORD

George Steele  
George Stocking  
Stephen Post  
Philip Davis  
Nathaniel Ward  
Thomas Hall or Hull  
Rich Lyman  
John Arnold  
William Hide  
T. H. Gridley  
John Moody  
John White  
Giles Smith  
Thomas Judd  
George Wyllys, Esq.  
Thomas Wyllys  
John Webster  
William Whiting, merch.  
William Gibbons  
J. Pierce  
John Olmstead  
Edwin Leroy  
William Wesley  
William Watts  
Watts  
Henry Wakely  
Paul Peck  
Thomas Mist, Most, Jr.  
Thomas Mist, Most  
William Holton  
Thomas Seldon  
Thomas Bunce  
John Wilcock  
Joseph Mygalt  
Ralph Keeler  
William Blumfield  
John Hale  
J. Friend  
Richard Butler  
John Harvey  
Joseph Easton  
Jeremy Adams  
James Ensign  
G. Hubbard  
Marshall George Graves  
Arthur Smith  
John Barnard  
Gregory Wilterton  
Sam Greenhills, heirs  
Andrew Bacon  
Nathaniel Ward  
Deacon Andrew Warner  
Same Wakeman  
William Bills, Hills

John White  
Edw. Hopkins, Esq.  
Wm. Andrews, schoolmast.  
John Biddles, tanyard  
Thomas Alcock 2nd  
Arthur Smith  
Jonas Ince  
Capt. John Cullack  
Thomas Lord, Jr.  
Richard Lord  
Thomas Lord  
Thomas Standley  
John Skinner  
Mary Betts  
John Biddle  
Seth Grant  
Richard Olmstead  
H. Plat  
John Tanner  
Samuel Whitehead  
William Goodwin, Elder  
Sam Stone, Teacher  
John Steele Mary's 1st husband?  
Clement Chaplin  
Thomas Hooker, pastor  
John Barnes, Esq.  
Richard Webb  
James Olmstead  
William Pantree  
Thomas Scott  
Edw. Stebbins  
Tim Standley  
John Stone  
John Marsh  
William Butler  
Nathaniel Allen  
John Barnard  
Thomas Woodford  
William Westwood  
Stephen Hart  
Matthew Marvin  
Richard Goodman  
William Lewis  
John Talcott  
Edw. Elmer  
Nathaniel Ely  
Robert Day  
William Kelsey  
Matthew Allen  
Clark  
Edwin Hopkins  
Thomas Alcock, Alcott  
John Haynes  
John Pratt

John Maynard  
Richard Webb  
Mrs. Dorothy Chester  
Thomas Stanton  
Nathaniel Richards  
William Wadsworth  
William Rusco  
William Parker  
John Clark  
Thomas Burchwood  
Ozias Goodwin  
Thomas Hales  
John Parch, Purchas  
Zachery Field  
Thomas Munson  
Nathaniel Kellog  
William Phillips  
Neh. Grummon, Ginnings  
Thomas Hungerfort  
Nathaniel Disbro  
William Heaton  
Stephen Hart  
Noah Clark  
Nathaniel Spencer  
Richard Church  
Robert Wade  
William Spencer  
Thomas Reed  
Samuel Hale  
Benjamin Burr  
Mary Mann  
John Warner - may be Andrew's son, John  
Richard Cummings  
Noah Clark  
Richard Semmer, Seymore  
John Hopkins  
Nathaniel Harding  
William Gibbons, of  
great wealth and happi-  
nexx

Owners of lots in 1640  
Hartford, Connecticut

Probably the Wm. Hills  
Andrew's dau. Mary married  
in 1653

Hannah Warner m.  
Daniel Pratt,  
son of John







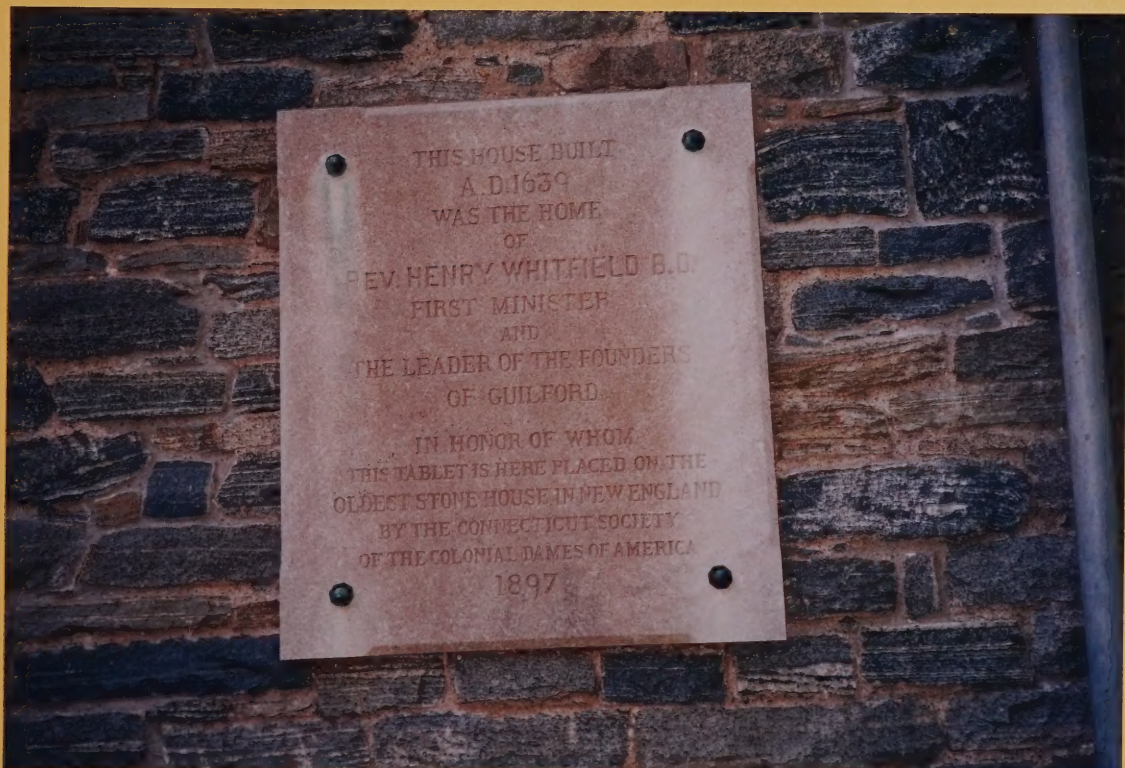


The House of the  
Rev. Henry Whitfield in  
Guilford, Conn.

Girlhood home of Abigail Whitfield  
who married Rev. James Fitch  
in 1648.

They were nearly the same age  
born in 1622.

So they were about 26 when  
they married. If this house  
was built in 1639 she would  
have no doubt lived there  
about 9 years from about  
17 to 26, the same years  
James was studying for the  
ministry.







The Whitfield House

Both the Whitfield's and his wife's family, the Sheafe's have extensive "pedigrees" in England.





Rev. Whitfields Study













*In the Attic*





OLD SAY-BROOKE

where Rev. James pastored his  
first church









## PASHBESHAUKE

On this site over 350 years ago stood a village of the Nehantic Indians, whose territory extended from the Connecticut River East to Niantic. It was called Pashbeshauke or "the place at the river's mouth". Peaceloving, the Nehantics subsisted mainly by fishing and hunting though they did raise beans, maize, and tobacco. Their wigwams were enclosed with matted boughs and thatched roofs. Some were as large as one hundred feet long and thirty feet wide.

Around 1590, a warlike tribe, members of the Mohican federation, began to migrate into Connecticut from the Hudson River. The Pequots, whose name means "killers of men" soon conquered the Nehantics and other local tribes living along the Connecticut River as far as Northfield, Mass., those eastward as far as the Thames River, and even those on Long Island. By the time the white man appeared, the Pequots were at the peak of their power, led by Sassacus, the last great sachem of the Pequot Federation.

## FORT SAYBROOK 1635

The first fort at Saybrook Point built in 1636 was similar to other English coastal settlements. Lion Gardiner designed the fort in the European tradition as a square palisaded fortification, containing several structures, surrounded by an earthen embankment and moat. A moveable drawbridge crossed the moat at the entrance on the western side. Cannon platforms were placed in each corner. The fort was well positioned to guard against an attack from up-river or from Long Island Sound. Its cannon could fire a mile as far as Poverly Point on the opposite side of the river. Because it stood on a peninsula between the North and South Coves, it also protected the settlers against a land attack from the west. The original fort burned to the ground in 1647, and was replaced by a second fort of simpler design.

## WINTHROP AND THE WARWICK PATENT

As president of the Council for New England, the Earl of Warwick acquired from King James I the right to settle a vast tract of wilderness stretching from the Narragansett River, westward to the Pacific. In 1631 he conveyed Patent to 15 Puritan Lords and Gentlemen mainly for the purpose of giving them a potential place of refuge in case the Puritan Revolution failed and the King should be restored to the Throne. The three leading Patentees were William Fiennes, Lord Brooke, and Colonel George Fenwich.

In 1635 the Warwick Patentees commissioned John Winthrop, Jr. "The first Governor of the Connecticut River. His father was then governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Reaching Boston in October 1635 Winthrop, Jr. learned that the Dutch were planning to occupy Pashbeshauke and at once sent a small vessel with 20 armed men to the mouth of the River. They landed on Nov. 24, 1635, and tore down the Dutch coat of arms nailed to a tree, mounting in its place a shield on which they painted a grinning face. A few days later a Dutch ship approached, but withdrew when they saw the soldiers and two well-placed cannon. Winthrop changed the name of the Point to Sayebrooke in honor of Viscount Saye & Sele and Lord Brooke. Sele was William Fiennes.





## SAYBROOK COLONY

Col. Fenwick sold the Colony to the Connecticut Colony in 1644. In 1648 Saybrook Colony was divided into four sections. As the villages grew during the early 18th century the boundaries changed to accomodate the church societies. The present boundaries were established for the purpose of self-government. The incorporation dates are noted on the map.

## THE PEQUOT WAR

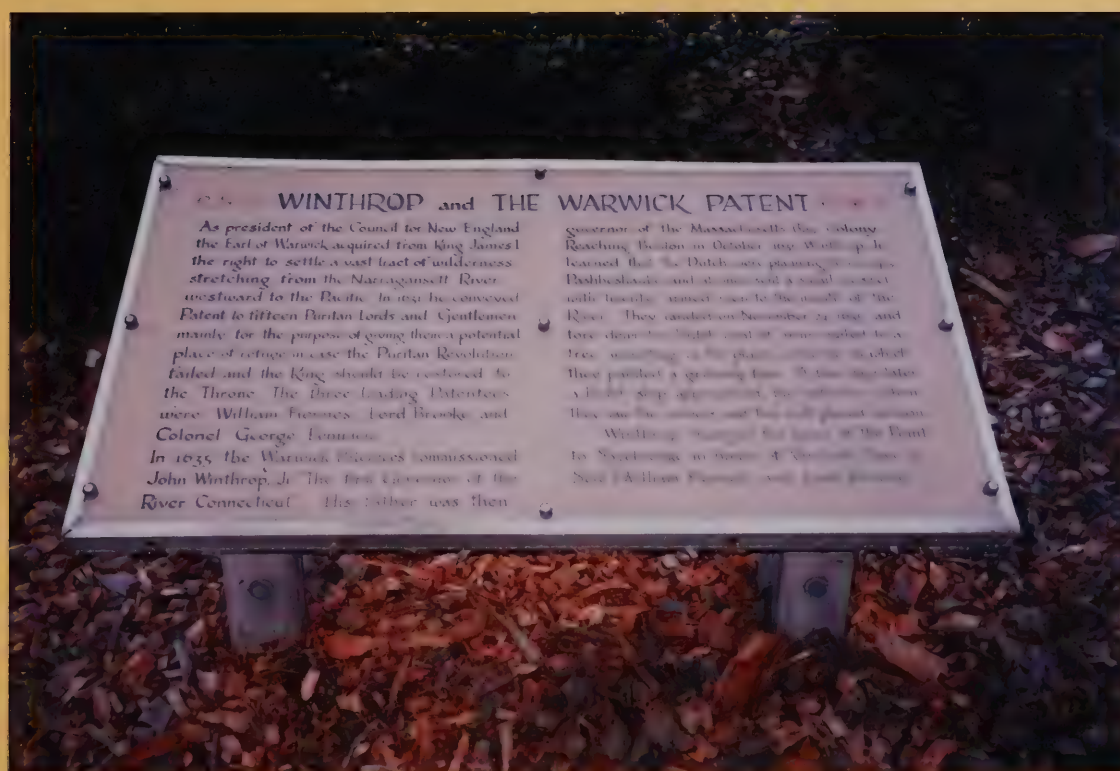
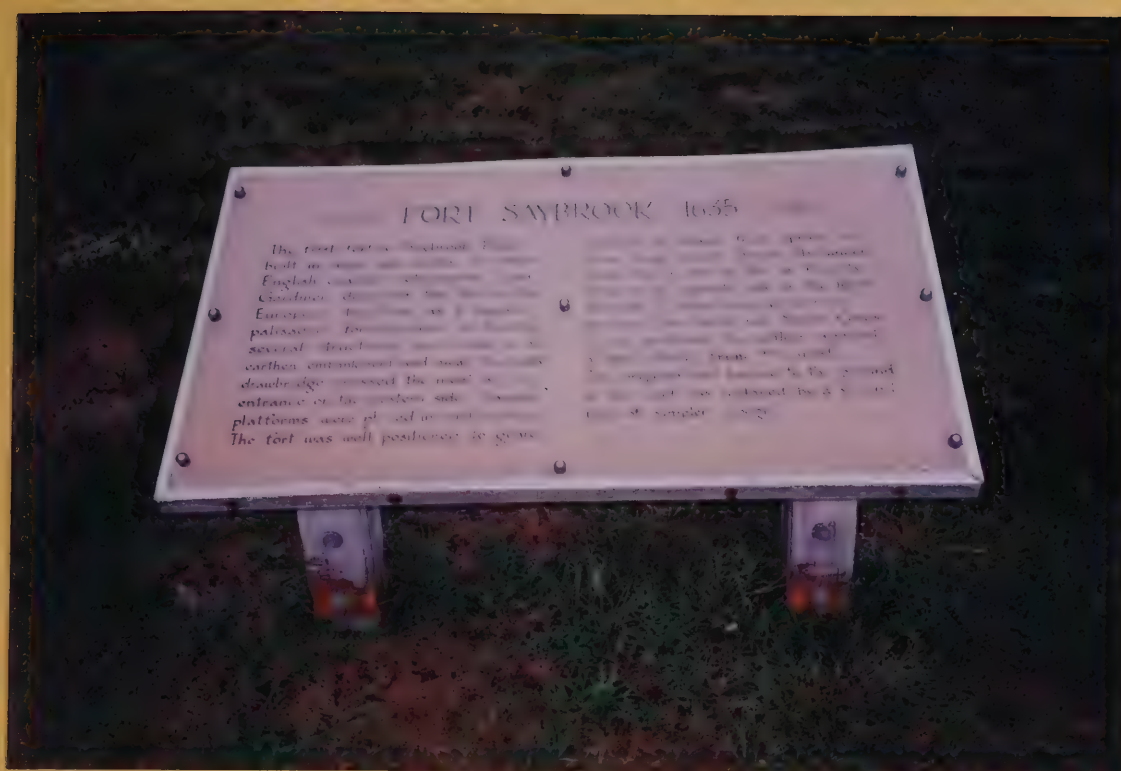
The English settlers had no trouble making friends with the native River Indians, but found it impossible to pacify the Pequots, who in 1633 murdered a party of 9 Englishmen at the mouth of the River. After Fort Saybrook was built, 300 Pequot warriors constantly harassed the Fort, wounded Lion Gardiner, butchered livestock and burned storehouses and haystacks outside the palisado. In May 1637, the Hartford and Saybrook colonies declared war on the Pequots. A force of 90 men under Captain John Mason was joined by Uncas, a renegade Pequot chieftain, and his braves. They launched an attack by sea from Fort Saybrook and destroyed the Pequots main encampment near Groton. Following his service in the Pequot War, Captain Mason was appointed as the second Commander of the Fort.

## SAYBROOKE

Founded in November 1635. First English settlement on south shore of New England. Named for Viscount Say and Seale and Robert, Lord Brooke, two of the group of English nobility and gentry who, in 1632, received a patent from Robert, Earl of Warwick, to lands from the Narragansett River to the Pacific Ocean. A fort was established at the mouth of the Connecticut River to protect it for English colonists. First church was organized in 1646 in the fort's Great Hall. Fourth edifice, built in 1840, stands opposite. Many nearby towns sprang from Say-Brooke. Site of original colony, now called Old Saybrook.







These Tablets are found in the Old Saybrook park down at the water front.

[illegible][illegible]

to be paid. The Dutch King was a very young man, and his reign was marked by a series of wars and revolutions. The Dutch Republic was a powerful nation, and its influence was felt throughout the world. The Dutch East India Company was a major force in the East Indies, and its ships sailed to all parts of the world. The Dutch Republic was a democracy, and its people were free to express their opinions. The Dutch Republic was a great power, and its influence was felt throughout the world. The Dutch Republic was a democracy, and its people were free to express their opinions. The Dutch Republic was a great power, and its influence was felt throughout the world.

They landed on Monday, 14, 1839, at Winthrop they purchased a grunting of arms and mounted a skiff and approached the island of Winthrop. In the skiff they saw a skiffed skiff in front of Winthrop. The skiffers and the skiff (in English) in front of Winthrop. They changed the name of the skiff to "LORD BROOKS".

Says and told the members of Hiram Willard, first Willard immigrant in America, who also founded Concord, Massachusetts.

THE WILLARD FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

THE WILLARD FAMILY AUGUST 1901

**SAYBROOK COLONY**

Col Emurich sold the Colony to the Connecticut Colony in 1647. In 1648 Saybrook Colony was divided into four parishes. As villages grew during the early eighteenth century, the boundaries changed to accommodate the church societies. The present boundaries were established for the purpose of self-government. The incorporation dates are noted on the map.

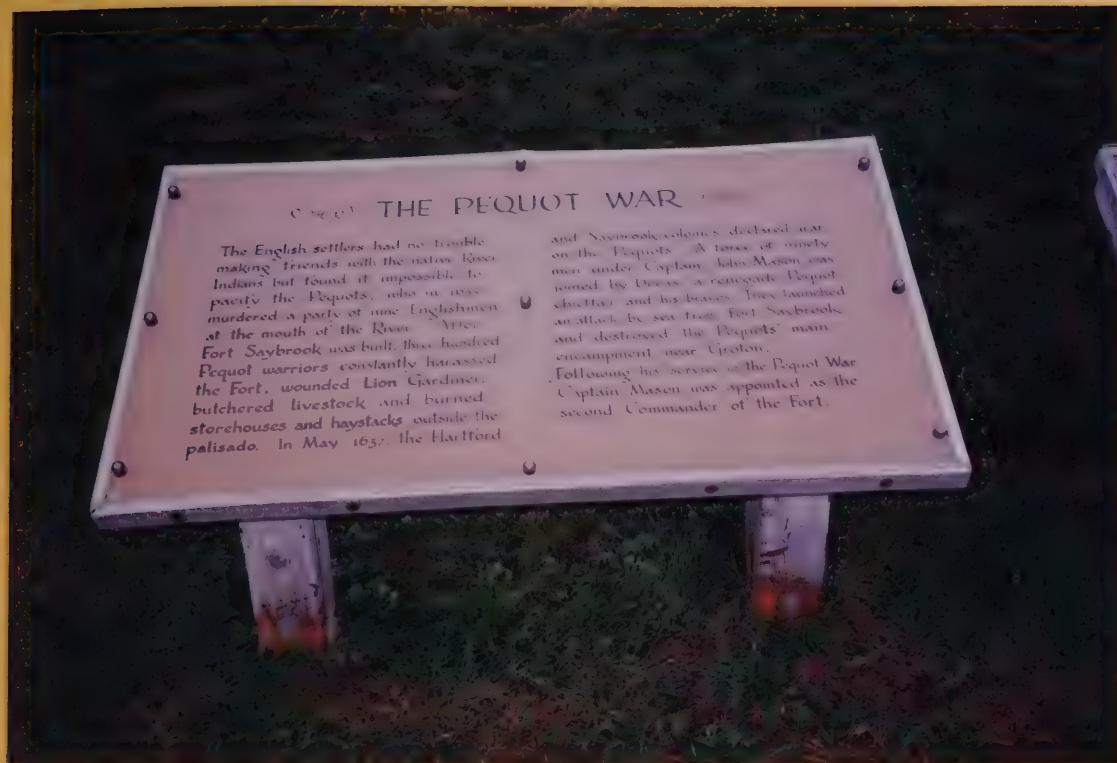
The map shows the Saybrook Colony divided into four parishes: Chester, Lyme, Essex, and Old Lyme. It also shows the locations of Westbrooke and Old Saybrook. A legend indicates that solid lines represent the 1647 boundaries and dashed lines represent the present town boundaries. A circular inset shows a map of Saybrook in 1647.

Saybrook in 1647

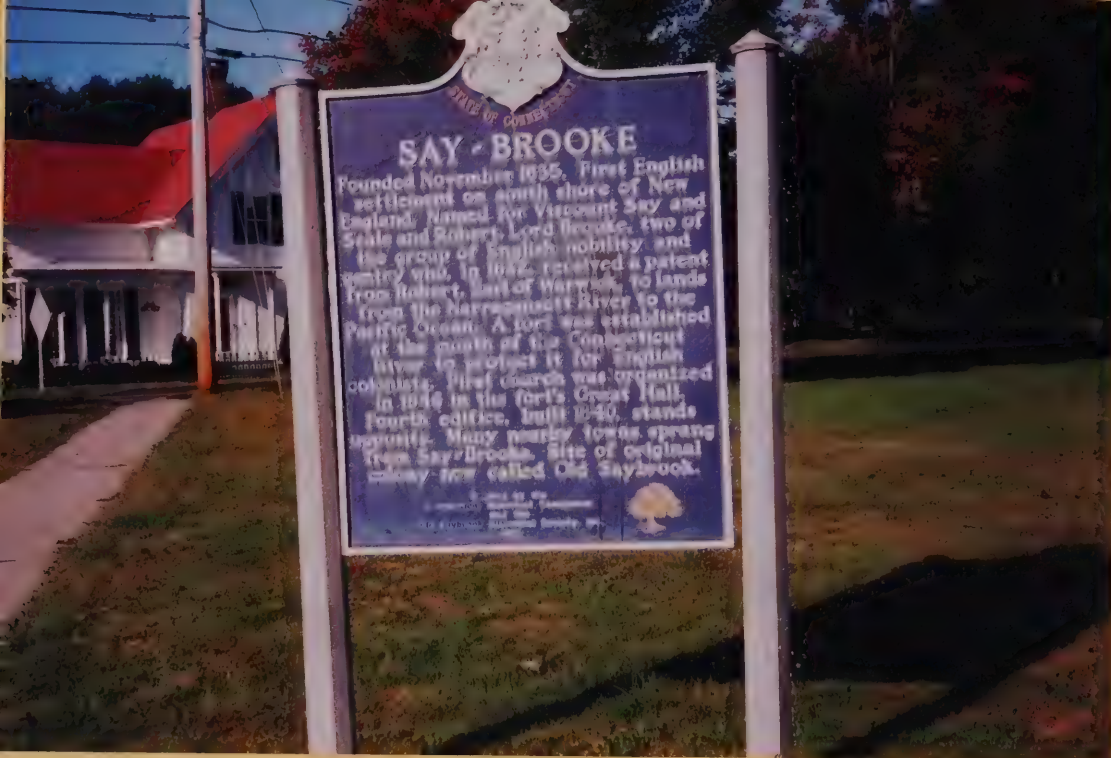
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Saybrook in 1647





When Rev. James left this area he took at least half his congregation and moved to Norwich. As his family was young they all went along. Where his wife Abigail Whitfield is buried is still a question but she no doubt died in Say-brooke.



The Fourth Church  
 built in 1840. It is  
 up the street away from  
 the shoreline.

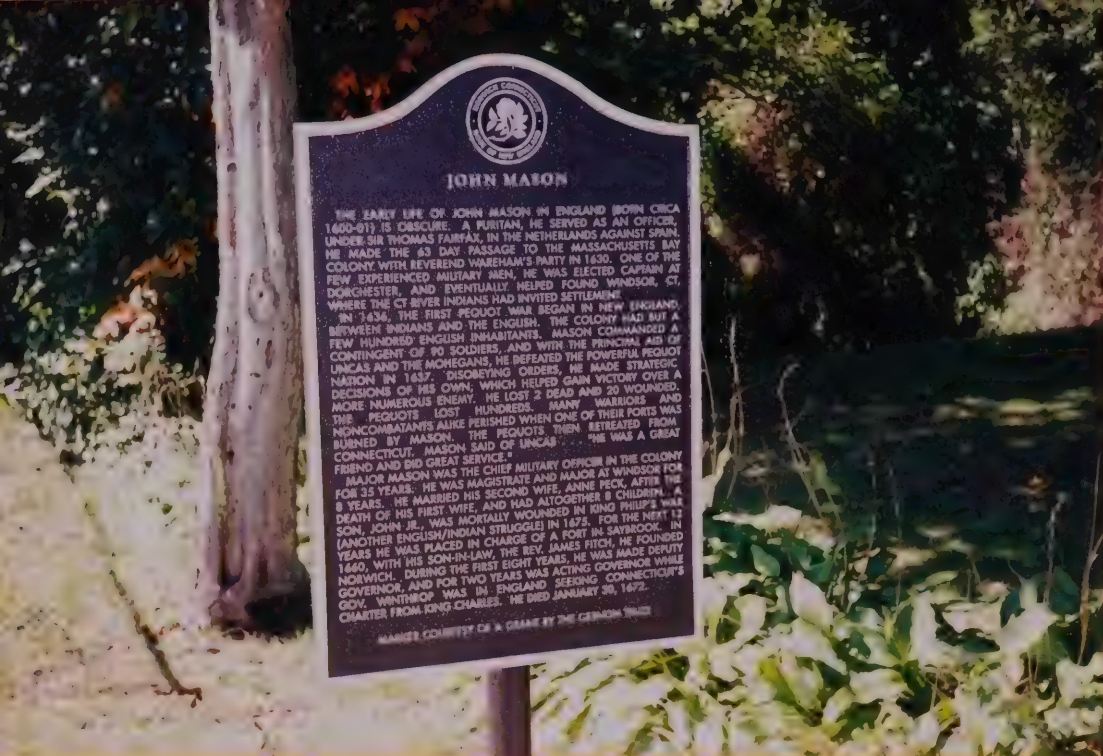




Rev. James Fitch's Town







First Congregational Church

First Church of  
Norwich



## THE GREEN

In 1659 the Mohegan chief Uncas sold to settlers led by Major John Mason and the Reverend James Fitch "nine mile square", part of which became Norwich.

According to Frances M. Caulkin's history of Norwich, "At the end of the first century, the church, no longer necessary as a look-out post of the town, came down from the hill, and took its position at the corner of the Green ... the place where trades, merchandize, public business, military exercises, shows, sports, festivals, and the general enterprize of the town, found a center.

The County Jail stood on the north side at the foot of the hill. The Court-house was in the open area. The Post-office not far from the meeting house ... taverns, schools, and shops alternating with private dwellings around the border.

Opposition to British rule increased over the next few years and the residents erected Liberty Tree, a lofty pole, decked with standards and appropriate devices ... Here, almost daily, people assembled to hear the news, make speeches, and encourage each other in the determination to resist all oppression.

## JOHN MASON

The early life of John Mason in England (born circa 1600-01) is obscure. A Puritan, he served as an officer under Sir Thomas Fairfax in the Netherlands against Spain. He made the 63 day passage to the Massachusetts Bay Colony with Rev. Wareham's party in 1630. One of the few experienced military men, he was elected captain at Dorchester, and eventually helped found Windsor, Conn., where the Connecticut River Indians had invited settlement.

In 1636, the first Pequot War began in New England, between Indians and the English. The colony had but a few hundred English inhabitants. Mason commanded a contingent of 90 soldiers, and with the principal aid of Uncas and the Mohegans, he defeated the powerful Pequot Nation in 1637. Disobeying orders, he made strategic decisions of his own, which helped gain victory over a more numerous enemy. He lost 2 dead and 20 wounded. The Pequots lost hundreds. Many warriors and noncombatants alike perished when one of their forts was burned by Mason. The Pequots then retreated from Connecticut. Mason said of Uncas ... "He was a great friend and did great service".

Major Mason was the chief military officer in the colony for 35 years. He was magistrate and Major at Windsor for 8 years. He married his second wife, Anne Peck, after the death of his first wife, and had altogether 8 children. A son, John Jr., was mortally wounded in King Phillip's War in 1675. For the next 12 years he was placed in charge of Saybrook. In 1660, with his son-in-law, The Rev. James Fitch, he founded Norwich. During the first 8 years he was made deputy governor, and for 2 years was acting governor while Gov. Winthrop was in England seeking Connecticut's Charter from King Charles. He died Jan. 30, 1672





An Historical Address  
Given on the occasion of the  
Centennial Anniversary  
of the present  
Meeting House  
of the  
First Congregational Church,  
Norwich, Conn.,  
at  
Norwich Town Green,  
Sunday, June 16th, 1901,  
By the Pastor,  
CHARLES ADDISON NORTHROP.

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NORWICH:  
THE BULLETIN CO., 85 MAIN STREET.  
1901.





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## Preliminary Note.

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In delivering the following historical address, the exigencies of the *hour* required the omission of some things that had been written. Since that time further light has been thrown upon some subjects herein treated, the benefit of which the readers are justly entitled to; and some additional matter, pertinent to the subject, has been put in, all of which represents a labor of love and a grateful thank-offering to the old First Church of Norwich, from

THE AUTHOR.

Pastor's Study,  
Norwich Town Green.  
July 4, 1901.





## The Evolution of the Meeting House.

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On the night of Saturday, Feb. 7, 1801, "between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, the inhabitants of this town were awakened by the alarming cry of Fire! and the ringing of the bell. The fire, when first discovered, burst forth from the large store of J. and C. P. Huntington (on the site of the present chapel), and in a short time \* \* \* \* that valuable building was wrapped in the destructive element. By this time the inhabitants had collected from all parts of the town, and made every effort to quell its further progress. But alas! it seemed to put all their exertions at defiance, and spread with unconquerable fury. It communicated to the Meeting House next, and first caught in several places on the steeple, so that the Engines which were kept constantly playing to the best advantage on the most contiguous buildings, were of little use to prevent the Stately Dome from the destruction which now followed. The flames ascended to its Spire and continued to expand until the house was enveloped in one general blaze. A scene more dread, terrific and sublime, the eye could never behold!"

Thus, according to the *Norwich Packet*, ended the troubled life of the fourth meeting-house of the First Ecclesiastical Society; a house that was nearly twenty years in building and had been finished only thirty years before its fall, and thus arose the occasion for this historical discourse.

For, within a week from the burning, the undismayed inhabitants met in society meeting (Friday, February 13), at the court house, and voted unanimously "that they find it necessary to build a Meeting House as soon as the funds of the society will admit, and that said House be erected in such place as shall best

accommodate the inhabitants of the society." They voted also "that the society committee be and they are hereby appointed agents to take the most effectual method to remove all obstructions on the parish land; that the society request the County Court to fix the place for the erection of a new Meeting House on the lot belonging to the parish, and lying between lands owned by Azariah Lathrop and Joseph Huntington, near the spot on which their former meeting House was burnt (passed by more than two-thirds present.)" Elisha Hyde, Esq., Christopher Leffingwell, Esq., and Colonel Joshua Huntington, were made a committee to apply to the County Court for their approbation of the spot voted by the society on which to erect a meeting house. Elisha Hyde, Esq., John Backus, Eliphalet Carew, Colonel Christopher Leffingwell, General Ebenezer Huntington, Ebenezer Hyde, Elisha Tracy, Samuel Avery and Nathaniel Shipman, Jr., were made a committee "to devise ways and means to carry into effect the several votes passed relative to building a Meeting House," and were ordered to report at a meeting of the society to be warned for that purpose. Ten days thereafter (February 23), at a regularly warned meeting, the committee made their report, and it was voted that "Whereas this society from misfortune are deprived of their Meeting House and are now obliged to build the same at a great expense, and as it behooves them to practice economy and to save every unnecessary expense, that this society will not allow any compensation for any personal services to their committees, collectors or receivers of money so far as the same do, or are meant to apply to the building of said Meeting House; but all and every person who has or may be appointed to collect and receive money or do any other business respecting said House, shall do the same without any compensation, excepting when it becomes necessary for any of the aforesaid persons on the business of said house to go out of the limits of the town of Norwich, in which case they shall be allowed their expenses, and no more."

It was further voted "that Deacon John Backus and Mr. Nathaniel Shipman, Jr., be a committee to circulate the subscription to be opened to raise money in part to build a Meeting House; that Elisha Tracy, Erastus Huntington and Nathaniel Shipman, Jr., be



requested to prepare and prefer a petition to the General Assembly in May next, for a Lottery, or Lotteries, to consist of one or more classes, to raise the sum of three thousand dollars for building a Meeting House, and that they be directed and empowered to sign the same in behalf of this society as their agents; that a committee of seven persons be appointed by this society who shall have power to fix a plan for the Meeting House and to make the necessary contracts for erecting and completing the same when the sum of two thousand dollars shall be subscribed; that they be authorized as soon as two thousand dollars are subscribed to commence building the House, and that they be authorized to hire on Loan such sum or sums as they may find expedient to complete the same, and in order that the Lenders of the Money may, in a reasonable time, receive the principal and the interest thereon annually, the society do hereby pledge the nett proceeds of the Lottery, should one be granted, and do further pledge the monies arising from the sales of the use of the pews, which shall be sold annually until the principal and interest is paid, and the avails of said Pews shall be applied accordingly." It was also voted "that should it be inconvenient to pay the interest annually as it falls due, the interest arising on the monies borrowed shall be considered as principal, and the interest thereon allowed accordingly." It was also voted at this same busy meeting "that the Treasurer, with the advice of the society committee for the time being, be directed to have the Meeting House insured against fire as soon as the same shall be completed, and in case of loss by fire the society do hereby pledge the monies which may be received from the insurers, for the payment of such sums as may be due for monies loaned to build said House."

The committee of seven for building the Meeting House, agreeably to the foregoing votes, consisted of Elisha Hyde, John Backus, Christopher Leffingwell, Zachariah Huntington, Joseph Hosmer, Ebenezer Huntington and Thomas Lathrop.

Voted "that the subscription to be opened for the purpose of raising money to build a Meeting House, shall be agreeable to the following form:

"We, the subscribers, desirous of having a meeting house erected

as soon as may be in which the first society in Norwich may convene for divine service, do hereby engage to pay the society committee, to be by them paid over to the Treasurer, the sums to our names severally affixed, one-half thereof on or before the first day of June next, the other half on or before the first day of August next, with interest after due till paid. The above subscription is not to be obligatory unless the sum of Two thousand dollars in cash shall be subscribed. Norwich, 24th Feb., 1801."

"Voted that this society so direct their committee appointed for the purpose of superintending the building of a meeting house, to erect on the hill west of the spot where said House is to be built, a Tower or building suitable for hanging a bell for the accommodation of this society, and when a bell is obtained to place said Bell in the same, and to save expense in building said house, the society do hereby direct their committee not to make any provision for hanging a bell in the Meeting House."

"Voted that the society committee be requested to apply to the Selectmen of the Town of Norwich to insert in their next warning of a Town meeting a notification that this society wish to obtain permission of the Town to erect a meeting House on the Town's land near the spot on which their former Meeting house was burned, and that the Town would cause all obstructions standing on the Town's Land near said spot should be removed."

Thus fully and in detail did the fathers of 1801 go about the re-building of the Meeting House. But with all their care they had not fixed everything to the satisfaction of everybody. The short and simple annals of the next society meeting held March 9, 1801, contain the following: "At said meeting the following vote was handed to the Moderator for the society to vote, viz: Whereas many of the Inhabitants of this society are much dissatisfied with the place hastily pitched upon for erecting their Meeting House, and for the purpose of Promoting Harmony, Voted, by this society that they now reconsider that vote, and in Lieu thereof direct their Building Committee (who they have already or shall hereafter appoint) to build said House on the Hill or Table of Land back of the spot where the Late Meeting House was Burnt, and to make preparation



on said House when so built for hanging a bell. It was voted in the Negative: 57 against the Vote, 28 in favor of it.

"Voted that this society Rescind a former Vote of the society Directing a Building on the Hill West of the spot where said meeting house is to be Built for the purpose of hanging a Bell—and all Restrictions laid on said Building Committee in said vote are hereby Rescinded and made Void. Voted in the Affirmative: 54 being in the Affirmative and 24 in the Negative."

At that meeting Joseph Hosmer was excused from service on the building committee and Doctor John Turner was appointed in his place.

Meanwhile the committees on subscriptions and loans were at work, with this result: Sixty-five subscribers agreed to pay in sums ranging from five to three hundred dollars, the aggregate sum of two thousand and sixteen dollars and thirty-three cents (\$2,016.33). There were some conditional pledges. John Backus agreed to give "\$66. and \$34. more to be added, provided \$3,000 is obtained on this subscription. Simon Huntington will give \$20. on condition the incumbrances be removed. Elisha Tracy adheres to his former declaration made to the committee, and others, that in case the house is put in the center of travel he will give \$333.34. In case the house is put on the hill he will build 1-32 of the house, cost what it will. Provided the house is built under the hill and the bell hung on the hill, he will give \$100. If neither of these conditions are complied with he thinks buying a pew is all he ought to do."

Copies of this subscription paper, with the conditions annexed, have been printed from time to time. The original paper is still extant, and is in the possession of the Ripley sisters, Broadway, Norwich.

Loans were secured at first from twelve persons for an aggregate of \$1,700—ten of them giving \$100. each and the others \$200. and \$500. each. This paper has also been in print. Other loans were obtained later for various sums, the full payment of which covered many years.

The town granted (May 12, 1801) "liberty to the First Ecclesiastical Society to erect a meeting house on the town common west

of the highway near where the last meeting house stood that was destroyed by fire," and the General Assembly, at the May session, granted the lottery.

On Thursday, June 18, 1801, "the corner stone of the new building was laid with interesting ceremonies by General Ebenezer Huntington. Only a few words were uttered, but they were of solemn import: 'May the house raised on this foundation become a temple of the Lord, and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.' A throng of spectators murmured their assent, and the young people standing above on the rocks waved their green boughs. Dr. Strong, the pastor, then offered prayer."

How much would we not give for further records of those eventful years of building! This short extract from Miss Caulkins' History of Norwich, must suffice the inquiring minds of this generation, unless (what is not even yet impossible) some old papers yet to be discovered in attics and out of the way places, shall put us in living touch with those days of completing and dedicating the new meeting house, even as a like fortunate discovery has furnished me with these records of preparatory building, which I have just been pretty fully transcribing, as well as many others of great value to the antiquarian.

In September, 1801, the legal voters of the society were warned to meet "to hear an application from the managers of the lottery and also to show their minds on the propriety of directing the treasurer to give bonds of indemnity to the town against the expense of removing the nuisances from the town land near the meeting house."

The managers advertised the lottery in the *Norwich Courier*. I copy the following notices from the issues of January 27th and April 7th, 1802:

"Norwich Meeting House  
Lottery.  
(In two classes).

The presbyterian meeting house in Norwich, first society, having been the last winter destroyed by an incendiary, the Hon. legislature of this state in May last granted said society a Lottery to



enable it to rebuild the same, and committed the management thereof to the subscribers. Agreeably to the act of the Legislature, they have given bond for the due fulfilment of said trust, and present to the public the following

Scheme.

Second Class.

4,800 tickets at \$3. each, is.....				\$14,400.
From Class 1st .....				600.
				<hr/>
				\$15,000.
1 prize	of \$1,000.....			\$1,000.
1	"	"	500.....	500.
1	"	"	300.....	300.
2 prizes	"	"	250.....	500.
2	"	"	200.....	400.
8	"	"	100.....	800.
8	"	"	50.....	400.
10	"	"	40.....	400.
10	"	"	30.....	300.
12	"	"	25.....	300.
20	"	"	20.....	400.
80	"	"	10.....	800.
100	"	"	8.....	800.
1,350	"	"	6.....	8,100.
<hr/>				
1,605 prizes.				\$15,000.
3,195 blanks.				
<hr/>				
4,800				

~~Not~~ Not two Blanks to a Prize.

Subject to a deduction of twelve and one-half per cent. Prizes to be paid in sixty days after the drawing is finished, but if not demanded in six months will be considered as given and applied to the purposes of the Lottery. A list of prizes will be duly published.

The object of this Lottery and the scheme to advance it are such

as to engage the attention of the speculating adventurer, and those who from principles of duty and benevolence are disposed to contribute to the best interests of society; while the former has a fair hope of increasing his money from the unusual number of high prizes, and the multiplication of chances in his favor, the latter will possess an excellent occasion to dispense their aid in a work incalculably useful to a Christian community.

Our fellow citizens will remember that by recent and successive visitations of fire the Meeting House in both societies in this town have been destroyed, and that it has been devoted to greater losses of private and public property by this dreadful element than almost any town in the state has ever witnessed. These considerations prompting to a ready purchase of the Tickets will, it is presumed, enable the Managers to effect an early draught of the Lottery.

✂ The drawing of the second class will positively commence on the 3rd Monday in April next.

Thomas Fanning,  
Nathaniel Shipman, Jr.,  
Simeon Thomas,  
Dwight Ripley,  
James Lanman,  
Thomas Tracy,

Managers.

Norwich, Sept. 1, 1801."

[From the *Courier*, Apr. 7, 1802.]

"Norwich Meeting House  
Lottery.

(Second Class.)

Notice from the Managers is hereby given to all persons to whom Tickets in this Class has been entrusted for sale, to return such as may remain in their hands unsold, on or before the 15th inst., as this class will positively commence drawing on Monday the 19th inst.

Tickets not returned before the commencement of the drawing will be considered at the risque of the holders."



The lottery was duly drawn and the papers of that date gave the names of the winners of prizes.

In December, 1802, the building committee made its report to the society.

"Errors excepted," they report the cost of the new meeting house as \$6,624.51, including cash on two notes given to the Norwich Bank for \$1,000 and \$400., "which notes" they say "have since been taken up by the managers of the lottery."

This meeting house thus built with commendable energy as to time and expenditure was easily the first meeting house in this part of the state. Architect Joseph Terry, of Hartford, gave us a beautiful house for those days, and even now, at the close of a century, we are more than ever in love with its site and its proportions.

Dr. Arms, in his Fortieth Anniversary discourse, given in 1876, speaks of the interior as it was at the beginning of his ministry in 1836. He speaks of the "clustered columns supporting the lofty galleries, and expanding above into Gothic arches, surmounted in the center by a large dome. The galleries had pews on the wall and benches in front. Two pews separated from the rest, and far above them over the stairs, were appropriated to the colored people. I never saw them occupied. The pews below were square with perpendicular backs; seats on three sides, and in the center an armed chair for the patriarch of the family. \* \* \* The pulpit perched aloft, high above this modern structure, looked down serenely upon the upturned faces of the worshipers beneath. It was lighted and ventilated as well, by a broad window in the rear."

With its groined arches, massive pillars supporting the galleries and the dome, its sky-blue central dome, its square pews and high contracted pulpit, it must have contributed to the promotion of awe and aspiration and holiness in the worshipers, even more than its present interior does. The old first mold which stood for more than forty years did its share in the spiritual ministries which, led by Dr. Strong, then in his prime (50 years old), by Mr. Everest and Dr. Arms, gathered into the church nearly 500 persons up to the

time of its remodelling in 1845, of whom the greater part have passed on. Eleven of them are with us yet.

Harriet L. Carpenter,	admitted in 1832.
Emily E. Pitcher,	" " 1834.
Lyman W. Lee,	" " 1837.
Philena Hallam,	" " 1841.
Justin W. Birchard,	" " 1842.
William B. Lathrop,	" " 1842.
Stephen N. Yerrington,	" " 1842.
Lydia E. Yerrington,	" " 1842.
Bethiah E. Pitcher,	" " 1842.
Harriet J. Pitcher,	" " 1842.
Cynthia A. Potter,	" " 1845.

The exterior of the meeting house has not undergone much change since the beginning of the last century. The present tower, above the bell tower, has taken the place of the beautiful cupola, and the windows are of a more modern make. In most other respects the passer-by to-day looks upon the house as it was in the beginning. Lombardy poplars, which, according to a newspaper article of 1802, "not only gave the country a gay and pleasant aspect, but also purified and refreshed the air," were set out thickly about the meeting house and plain. Those about the meeting house were cut down after twenty years. Others in the neighborhood lived on for ten years longer in gradual decay.

Up to this point, I do not seem to have touched, still less developed my subject, which, you will recall was "The Evolution of the Meeting House." That evolution began early in this parish. The beautiful building, about which we have been speaking, was the fifth in order, each one more commodious and artistic than the others. Our first fathers, after the manner, and in the spirit of the frontier settlers of to-day, upon their arrival in Norwich, hastily put up on the plain, in the neighborhood of Mr. Hale's store, a rough, barn-like structure, with probably no galleries, porch nor steeple, just a shelter from the sun and storms under which they might worship God. Within eight years (1668) it needed repairing and "heightening," and within another eight years its successor stood

on the hill above us (1675). After fourteen years it was enlarged (1689), and after sixteen years more (1705) it was repaired. Its windows were probably of lead casement, diamond-shaped, with diamond-shaped panes. It had a bell, hung in a separate frame—the Grignon bell, a gift to the town in 1708, by a well disposed Frenchman, which made Norwich less jealous of New London, which had gloried in a bell since 1691. The probable appearance of this house may be found in Miss Caulkins' History of Norwich (page 129). Too soon the congregations outgrew this house. It gave place to another, built also on the hill (1709-13) having a steeple, belfry, bell, clock and hour glass. The bell was hung in 1743, and Joshua Avery was bell ringer. A picture of its door handle and hinges may be found in Miss Perkins' "Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich."

Forty years after its completion, in 1753, another meeting house was begun, located not without opposition, under the hill, more elaborately planned and very slowly completed, the immediate predecessor of this present building whose centennial we are celebrating. It had a bell, a clock, galleries and stone steps, and it was "coloured." It was in this house that Whitefield is said to have preached on more than one occasion. A motto "Holiness becometh God's House," was on the front of the pulpit canopy. After the house was repaired and repainted in 1790 the motto was removed, as a correspondent in the *Norwich Packet* explained, "out of complaisance and in conformity to an act of the General Assembly to secure the rights of conscience to Christians of every denomination."

The building was "said to have been square, with doors on three sides, and a front porch or platform. It was furnished with pews, except there were slips in front of the pulpit for aged people and strangers, with low benches in the aisles for the children." A plan of the interior, both of the ground floor and the galleries (of date 1756-61), is among the papers in the Pastoral Library, and a reprint is found in Miss Perkins' "Old Houses," etc. This gives the numbers and rating of the pews and the names of the occupants. The house was in a constant state of repair and completion. It was



presumably finished in 1770, but motions to repair and replace were made in society meeting only the year before the house was burned. Out of the almost complete destruction, the only thing now known to have been saved was the great pulpit Bible. It was the London edition of 1759, containing the Apocrypha, an Historical Index and the Liturgy of the Church of England. It is in the Pastoral Library of the Church.

Thus each successive meeting house, in its situation, size, and furnishing, registered the growing needs of the people. Watts' Psalms were introduced in 1772. In 1782 an organ was voted, but none was put in till about 1824. Stoves came in in 1810.

Up to this time the one building, with one large audience room, served the purposes of worship and instruction. But now the stirrings of a new life in the community and the church, the organization of the Sunday-school (which with us began in 1816), and suitable provision for its housing as well as for the conference meetings of the church, pointed unmistakably to either more rooms in the meeting house or rooms beside it—a part of the same religious plant. Accordingly, we find that after the great revival of 1830-32, in which more than 125 persons joined the church, itself the result largely of the new lay work in the Sunday-school, it was voted, in 1835, "to expend \$700. in building a vestry or Conference House, \$400. to be appropriated from the church funds, and \$300. to be raised by subscription." Stephen Allen was the builder.

The building was 24x40 feet, with slips on each side of a center aisle, three windows on each side, and two on the end. It was painted white inside and out, and stood on the west side of the meeting house under the rocks adjoining the pound, its front line somewhat back of the rear line of the meeting house. The sexes separated as they entered, and sat, the women on the right and the men on the left as you entered the room—an instinctive (?) hereditary, Judaical trait, still manifested in modern audiences in religious places. For twenty years or more the conference house stood there and served for prayer meeting and Sunday-school purposes, till, "in the year 1852, Mrs. General Williams, with her accustomed generosity, and as a token of the regard which she has ever cherished

for the home of her childhood, gave to the Ecclesiastical Society the valuable property where our chapel now stands, on condition that they would put it in proper shape for a Sabbath school and lecture room. The society thankfully accepted the gift, removed the large store-house which occupied the ground, and erected the tasteful structure which the church has since occupied."—From Dr. Arms' address at the Jubilee of the Sunday-school, 1866.

Soon after the erection of the chapel, which at first contained the present large audience room and a pastor's study in the rear, the old conference house was moved across the street, and stood facing the street, abutting upon the rear of the brick house lately owned by Mr. John A. Sterry. It was used for various purposes—as a class-room for the pupils of Dr. Stone, who kept a school in the brick block, as a voting place on occasions, and for other noble and ignoble purposes, some of which pained the hearts of those who had formerly worshiped within its walls. About 1885 it was demolished, and only its site survives, although there be those who will tell you that it is still standing in several parts of the town.

About midway in time, between the building of the conference house and the chapel, the meeting house underwent, in 1845, extensive repairs at a cost according to the contract of \$1,865. The work was done by Joseph A. Yerrington, "doing business by and under the name of Caleb N. Woodward, Agent." A copy of the agreement entered into between Mr. Woodward and the society is in existence, from which it appears that the whole interior of the house was to be entirely remodeled and renovated. On the supposition that the agreement was followed out, the clustered pillars and the dome gave place to much the present form. The square pews and the high pulpit were removed and given to the contractor, except such parts as might be deemed fit for use for the front panels in the galleries and for slip panels. The middle aisle was removed (a suggestion of which still appears in the great middle front door of this house, now unused), new flooring was put down except under the slips, where suitable parts of the old flooring were used. The present slips succeeded the square pews. They had

scroll and panel ends, the scroll and cappings were to be of mahogany, as also the rails upon the top and side of slips. The slips were fastened down with the most approved hinges and catches. They had book shelves on the back of each and were numbered with gilt letters on a black ground. They were of grained oak and varnished. The pulpit was entirely rebuilt, after suggestions furnished by one of the members, at a cost of \$125., of which sum, the records say the ladies of the sewing society paid \$55. A sofa stood behind the pulpit when the work was done, to which piece of furniture exception was taken by a correspondent in the *Courier*, as being more suitable for a parlor than a pulpit. That old sofa still graces the church, but it is in the rear of the front gallery!

The large window in the rear of the pulpit was filled up and properly clapboarded on the outside. The galleries were lowered eighteen inches, and had new fronts and columns. Two niches were made in the wall under the front gallery to place stoves in. A segment of circle formed in the porch served for a library, having a door opening from the audience room. New treads and lifts were put on the gallery stairs. New doors entered the nave above and below. New walls, new shingles, stucco cornice and center-piece completed the transformation. The upholstery passed over into the renovated house, whatever of it was available. Portions of the carpet, then put down in the aisles, are believed to be still in use on the floor of the west gallery.

The house was completed, and dedicated Sunday, Jan. 4, 1846. An appropriate sermon was preached by Dr. Arms, parts of which were printed in the *Courier* of Saturday, Jan. 10. In that sermon he refers to the year 1845 as an era of church building in Norwich, four of the five Congregational societies and seven societies of other names having either built or repaired churches during that year.

The Second Congregational society dedicated their new house Jan. 1, 1846, only three days before we did ours. The Main Street, now Broadway Church, was dedicated Oct. 1, 1845. The corner stone of Christ Church was laid in Aug., 1846. The Greeneville Baptist Church was built in 1846. At that date there were seventeen places of public worship in the town.



For more than thirty years (1846-1877), the meeting house having thus renewed its youth and taken on a more modern fashion, was the home of Dr. Arms' prime, the meeting house in which he preached his Fortieth Anniversary discourse, almost his last public appearance, the house, too, in which our surviving elders met and confessed Christ. Its galleries came to be used, along with the conference house for Sunday-school purposes. The attempt made in 1853 to shut the Sunday-school out from the body of the church proved unsuccessful, and down to quite recent days the old choir gallery in the church was the gathering place of the primary class.

During the thirty-one years that elapsed before the meeting house underwent further considerable alterations (1846-1877), more than 450 members joined the church, mostly under Dr. Arms' ministry. Of these 44 are in our living membership to-day. Eleven others came down to us from before 1846. Since 1877, 250 persons have united with us, more than one-half of whom have removed. During the century from 1800 to 1900, 1,200 persons joined the church. The present membership is 190. The total membership from the first extant records in 1699, equals 1,776.

Another evolution, organically connected with the meeting house, was the permission granted to individuals in 1857, and afterwards in 1879, "to erect sheds on the society's ground under the supervision and direction of the society committee." Thus mercy and truth met together—mercy for the beasts in the shed, and truth for the men in the house.

The insurers of the property required that the sheds be erected in the rear of the meeting house and thirty-five feet away. In 1857, also, posts were erected in the front of the house "to prevent carriages from approaching nearer than fifteen feet from the lower steps of the same," and Mr. Tufts (the sexton) was requested by vote "to show strangers to seats in the church on the Sabbath." Seven years thereafter (1864) a committee of two were appointed "to attend to the seating of strangers," and Lyman W. Lee and Elisha Mansfield were made that committee. In 1861 a furnace was put in, and in 1866 the chandelier was hung.

The sextons and bell-ringers have always been more than a

picturesque feature of meeting house life. The history of *our* sextons would be very interesting, but cannot be entered upon here. When this present house was erected, Diah Manning was filling that important office, as is supposed. A touch of romance is connected with his life from the fact that he had been drummer-boy to Washington's bodyguard, and had been selected to carry the ill-fated Major André his breakfast on the morning of his execution. Diah and his father Samuel had served this church for many years in the former house. When that burned down, the bell probably went with it. That it had a bell we have already declared, and in proof thereof cite the two following votes passed in society meeting in 1797 and 1799:

"Voted that the bell in this society shall not be tolled more than ten minutes for the death of any person, nor more than once for assembling people to a funeral."

"Voted that the bell be tolled twice for funerals, the first to precede the second tolling one hour."

I think that this present building was without a bell till the one now in the belfry was obtained. This one was *cast* in 1826. We have seen that the fathers of 1801 made provision for a bell "when it was obtained." It is more than probable therefore that Diah Manning had no bell to ring under the new regime, for he died in 1815. The bell which echoed his might, was the one put in in 1743, and for "wringing" which, in 1750-51, Joshua Avery put in a bill for £40 Old Tenor, and the bill was "allowed."

The first and greatest of the sextons of this century house, was Orimel Mabrey, who for forty years, beginning about the time the new bell was hung, performed various services as bell ringer, sweeper, undertaker and tything man. He rang the bell daily, at sunrise, noon and 9 p. m., except that the last bell on Saturday was at 8 o'clock and the first on Sunday at 9 o'clock.

His successors, some of whom were his co-laborers in office, and some of whom attended to the chapel were E. P. Dodge, Benjamin Gorton, W. F. Tufts, George H. Edgerton, Henry Snow, Edward L. Chappel, Frederick Rückerman, Charles Sterry, and Marvin W. Sterry, the present incumbent.

It is impossible to tell when the clock was put in. No written sources of information are available. The well meant declaration that it is over 90 years old *may* "go," but I do not say it.

In 1857 it was voted "that \$200. be appropriated from the common fund of the church to place an organ in the meeting house provided the organ can be obtained without expense to the society." That was a part of the movement that led to the purchase of the present organ. Before this time there had been a small pipe organ, put in, in 1824, Miss Caulkins says, and contemplated, at least, in the society warning for 1818. And before that a bass viol had tuned the praises of the congregation. About 1853 this organ became unusable and an interval of a few years was made vocal with a melodeon. Among those who presided at these musical instruments may be named Mrs. Henry Strong and her daughter Mary E. (Mrs. D. F. Gulliver), Sally Ann Huntington (Mrs. J. W. Huntington), Susan C. Huntington (Mrs. R. N. Parish), Geo. E. Porter, Abby W. Porter, Nancy E. Allen (Mrs. De Larazza), Edward K. Robinson, Annette R. Sterry (Mrs. R. H. Park), Ezra W. Yerrington, John W. Lewis, Henry E. Stevens, John A. Sterry, Miss Brierly, Charlotte Blackman, Henry Hard, Herbert L. Yerrington, the last having been in continuous service since 1873, except during the year 1881-2.

Very important subsidiary aid was rendered by the line of organ blowers beginning, so far as the records are concerned, with Henry Hallam in 1858, and descending through Jabez H. Wattles, Elisha Mabrey, Henry Yerrington, Lucius A. Fenton, Henry Fenton and Clarence J. Frazier, to the water motor of 1894.

The "psalmody" of this house has been from the first an object of care. In 1814 the society committee include in their warning, the matter of "improving the psalmody." An organ was talked up in 1818 as we have seen. Music teachers and choir leaders and paid and volunteer choirs have enlivened the passing years.

Music committees have, from time to time, sought to evoke greater harmony, as when, in 1853, D. W. Coit, George Bliss and Henry McNelly were made a committee "to improve the singing," and in 1857 Edward Harland and F. C. Stedman were made music



committee. In 1840 a formal petition was drawn up, headed by John T. Wait, and presented to the society committee, asking them to "call a society meeting forthwith for the purpose of adopting proper measures for the employing of a suitable person to lead a singing school in said society the present autumn, and to adopt any other measures that may be deemed expedient to improve the present choir."

The earliest music teacher on record was B. S. Barclay who, in 1831, received \$40. for teaching music. Then followed William Clegg, Samuel Chandler, Henry Stevens, D. F. Gulliver, Aaron Stevens, Jabez S. Lathrop and others, who as singing masters or choir leaders were interested in the service of song. During the '60's a paid quartette was the highest point we ever reached as to ability and cost. Somewhat later pastor Weitzel acted as precentor, and congregational singing was given a fair trial.

Under the present pastorate, a volunteer choir organized out of the Christian Endeavor Society, has been faithfully contributing its services to the worship of the meeting house, under G. Avery Ray and H. L. Yerrington as choir leaders.

As to singing books, the church had Watts' Psalms, Dwight's edition of Watts, and Church Psalmody. For social meetings the old books were Village Hymns and Chapel Hymns. The choir used *Carmina Sacra*, *The Psaltery*, *Cantica Laudis*. Afterwards, in 1862, the Sabbath Hymn and Tune Book was used by both choir and congregation, and in 1877 the church voted to introduce Hymns and Songs for Social and Sabbath Worship, by Hitchcock, Eddy, and Schaff—a book still in use by us. There are few churches that have made fewer changes in hymn books.

Since the building of the chapel in 1852, Dr. Arms had been receiving gifts of money and of books, as a nucleus for a pastoral library. In 1864 the ownership of the library was vested in the society. Gifts of money and of books continued for several years. From 1878 to 1888 a designated portion of the weekly offerings was devoted to library purposes. In 1890 the Hezekiah F. Rudd legacy of \$1,000 became available, and now constitutes the only regular resource for this object.

This evolutionary feature has been of great benefit to the four pastors who have been privileged to profit by it, and it will continue to be a fountain of intellectual and spiritual strength to pastors and people.

The library, starting in 1852 with a gift of \$100. from Hon. La-Fayette S. Foster, received early, in 1852 and 1853, two collections of valuable books and pamphlets. The one came from the library of Mr. Alfred Mitchell, 115 volumes, some very ancient, which Mr. Mitchell inherited from Judge Perkins, of New London, who himself inherited them from Rev. Eliphalet Adams, pastor in New London, son of William Adams, second minister of Dedham, Mass. The other collection came from the library of Rev. Dr. Strong, and was presented by Mrs. Henry Strong, 111 volumes and sundry pamphlets, to the number of 300 and more, mostly sermons.

Most of the old books, donated by Mr. Mitchell, were afterwards during the pastorate of Mr. Weitzel, returned to the family (on application of some member of it, it is understood), for a consideration of \$50., which was invested in new books.

The most valuable of the pamphlets of the Strong collection, numbering in all 317, were, in 1900, loaned to the Slater Hall for exhibition, together with the valuable silver communion cup presented to the church in 1722 by Madame Sarah Knight, and also two pewter flagons, and a pewter plate, some, or all of which, were probably in use before 1700.

The library contains to-day 172 volumes of Government Reports, including 66 volumes of the Congressional Globe for the years 1857-72; 75 volumes bound and unbound of Religious Periodicals, including the Christian Spectator, 1819-1838; The American Biblical Repository, 1839-46; The New Englander, 1845-82; The Bibliotheca Sacra, 1852-61; 150 volumes of Sermons of long ago; 735 volumes of books most of which are useful to-day, 450 of which have been added during the last 25 years, besides the 317 pamphlets loaned, making a grand total of about 1,450 books and pamphlets. (The very latest addition, made since this address was given, consists of some books from the library of the late Miss Carrie L. Thomas.)

The above reference to ancient communion plate reminds us of an evolution in this feature of meeting house worship.

Some time after the presentation of the Knight cup, the church, in 1769, as the records show, purchased three silver cups of William Holmes, Jun., Boston. They were of the same general pattern as the Knight cup and were, doubtless, intended to complete the set. Some light is thrown upon the conditions of this purchase by the following extract from a paper which appears to be an obituary sketch of Dr. Daniel Lathrop (died 1782), in the handwriting of Rev. Dr. Strong, now in the possession of the Ripley sisters. "He was very liberal in his contribution on Communion Days, insomuch that a deacon of the church, some ways satisfied of this said, by his means, in a great measure he was enabled to make a handsome addition of Plate Vessels for the use of the Lord's Table." The three silver cups, now in use by us, were in all probability those which were purchased in 1769, and there is a strong presumption that if this is the case, they were purchased with some of Dr. Lathrop's liberal contributions.

In 1808 the treasurer's books show the purchase of "2 plated flaggons \$60., and 2 plated bread baskets \$40., of Messrs. Cleveland and Hyde."

In 1810 there were bought "a Christening Basin \$14." and "3 Goblets for Communion Table \$18. (from New York, bought of Pelatiah Perit)."

As there is no clear reference in extant records to later purchases of this kind, it is likely that these also constitute a part of our present communion furniture.

Another evolution, much resisted in its day, and now an integral part of interior adornment, respects the use of flowers and greens for Sundays, and festival observances. Many of us recall the very infrequent use of flowers to grace and beautify the meeting place with God, about the middle of the past century. To-day no service seems complete without some of Nature's adornment, whether it be of flowers and grasses, or evergreens or autumn leaves. It is recalled that when once, by the courtesy of the First Society, the people of Christ Church were allowed the use of the meeting house,



which according to their usage was trimmed with greens for their Christmas festival, the conscience of the up-town people would not permit the greens to remain up over the Sabbath; they were removed before the holy day arrived, and thus all traces of the seeming desecration were wiped out.

Then, as now, the unusual was likely to be looked upon as the unholy, and the holiness of the Sabbath and of the meeting house consisted, for the many in the *usual* stillness and preaching services. The invasion of the material and, presumably, worldly was resented. But when "one Samuel Brown" the first one to set up a chaise in town, in Revolutionary days, was fined for riding to meeting in it, it happened to him as many of us have wanted to have it happen to modern wheel riders, who (sometimes) ride their wheel to the meeting house. One can get accustomed to any evolution and when seen near at hand, and often, it is not really so dangerous a thing as we supposed it was.

In 1869 it was voted "that the furnishing the east gallery of the church with chairs to be rented as the slips, be left to the discretion of the society committee." There was an informal discussion concerning the carpeting of the church, and measures were taken to raise the necessary funds. So far as the records are concerned nothing definite was done, but as the Treasurer's books show expenditures this year of nearly \$350. for carpets and chairs, it is presumed that the contemplated work was done, and it is now generally believed that the carpet now on the floor of the east and front galleries is a part of the material with which the aisles were carpeted in 1869.

In 1877 the meeting house was further altered and repaired. It having appeared that \$500. and over had been put into the hands of the society committee for repairing, renovating and beautifying the church, it was voted that \$250. be appropriated from these funds for new windows, \$50. for lowering the pulpit, \$50. for carpeting the vestibule and stairs, and \$25. for painting the outside doors of the church. The work was done at a cost of \$528.21. The new pulpit of 1845 was lowered and remained in that state of humiliation till 1894. The doors of the pews were removed, also the book shelves on the backs of the pews. Book racks were put in. New pulpit

furniture was probably added. Some painting was done and a fresh start was made. The pulpit Bible in use up to 1836 was doubtless the old Bible that survived the fire of 1801. A new Bible was purchased or presented, in 1836, about the beginning of Dr. Arms' ministry, and used in the church till 1856, when Mrs. J. W. Huntington presented the copy now in use. The Bible of 1836 went into the chapel desk, where it is to be found to-day.

Another feature of the evolution of the plant was the purchase of a parsonage in 1880, which served two parsons for thirteen years. This, though a legitimate, was not an altogether successful feature, and the house was sold in 1893.

When Dr. Arms said, in 1866, at the Jubilee of the Sunday-school, that the chapel had already become too strait and needed to be enlarged, he probably did not expect to wait fifteen years before seeing it done. In fact he died without the sight, for it was not till 1881 that steps were taken toward enlargement, although several improvements had been made heretofore, the latest being the covering of the chapel cushions, the expense of which was met by the organization known as "We Girls," which for nearly ten years, from 1877-86, was variously helpful to the parish, and whose last expiring breath was devoted to voting the balance in their treasury of \$107.10 for furnishing the parsonage on the occasion of the advent of the present pastor. About this time also the little red chairs were bought for the primary class which used to meet in the "study."

A committee was appointed, consisting of H. F. Rudd, Wm. B. Lathrop, Dr. Anthony Peck and Geo. R. Hyde, to carry into effect the plans and specifications of H. B. Porter, and secure the improvement, and the meeting of the expenses by individual subscriptions. The two wings were thus added to the chapel at an expense of \$1,124.29. Thus began the movement that brought into play the culinary and social side of church life, and which five years later (1886), led to still further enlargement, in the converting and expanding of the old pastor's study into a church parlor, and the addition of a *real* kitchen (one of the transepts or wings having previously answered that purpose). For the payment of the same the

society was authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding \$600. C. M. Williams superintended the work.

Meanwhile the growing sense of fellowship and responsibility found voice in a vote of 1882 "that the matron and children of the Children's Home shall be furnished with seats free of expense in our house of worship so long as they may be required."

In 1882 further extensive and aesthetic improvements were made in the meeting house interior. \$2,400.60 were raised by subscription—of which "We Girls" subscribed \$150.—and expended in payment for plastering, frescoing, painting, carpeting and cushioning. Additional expenses the next year went for furnace (for chapel), new roof for church, and debt, amounting in all to \$754.

The last considerable improvement was made in 1894, when the organ was rebuilt at a cost of \$1,700, provided with a water motor, and a place made for it and the choir in the rear of the pulpit, as it is this day. At the same time the pulpit platform was again lowered, and a new and broader platform built for it. The reading desk of the old pulpit of 1845 was retained. The fixed shutters on the west side of the house were removed, curtains were put in at the windows above, and the windows themselves were treated with a crystalline solution that served to shut out the excess of light. The entire cost of this remodelling was about \$2,500.

In 1897 the church and chapel were painted externally at an expense of about \$230., and in 1900 the church was shingled and variously repaired at a cost of about \$425. The church vestibule and the chapel were re-carpeted with matting (\$125). In this matter as well as in many others in former days the ladies of the church were foremost in furnishing occasion for the raising of the necessary funds—the feminine fair and festival taking the place of the more masculine lottery.

The kitchen and parlor, the peculiar realm of the ladies of the church and congregation, have served as means of grace from time to time.

Tea socials, suppers, dramatic and other entertainments for sweet charity's sake, have often, tho' less frequently now than formerly, contributed to friendship and good-will and have stood for the



social side of church life, so much emphasized to-day. It is interesting to know that when the organization of "The Other Girls" finished its course, some years ago, it presented to the crockery cabinet of the chapel kitchen some articles in blue ware, which had formerly been purchased in the old store which stood on the chapel site.

So has the major portion of the church membership been encouraged and allowed to exercise their right to work for the general good—their right to vote having been formally recognized in 1879.

Another evolution, now completely outgrown here, and almost so everywhere, respects the relation of the meeting house to the burying place. Formerly the houses of God were surrounded by the graves of the dead—the church yard was the grave yard. The present building of Christ Church was, as you may remember, erected in an old burying ground, and Rector John Tyler's grave is under the altar to-day. Our burying ground was not adjacent to the church, but across the Green. It was, however, vitally related to the church. It was voted in society meeting in Dec., 1800, "that no horses nor cattle be suffered to go at large in the burying yard for the year ensuing, and that the committee be directed to repair and keep up the fence around the burying ground at the expense of the society."

This burying ground consisted originally of one and one-half acres, reserved by the First Society out of a purchase of land made in 1699-1700 from Lieut. Samuel Huntington, for the parsonage use of Rev. John Woodward, the second minister of the society. A portion of the eastern slope of these grounds, which bordered on what was known as the "dolorous swamp," was set apart as a burial place for colored people, bond and free. The survey was not made till 1715. In 1704 the town granted liberty to Mr. Woodward "to flood the burying place till the town sees cause to fence it in by itself." Two additions of land were made in 1796 and 1819. In 1786 after other ecclesiastical societies had been formed within the limits of the ancient town, the Superior Court decided that the title to this land lay in the First Society. The society continued to care for

this place of the dead, more or less indifferently for many years. The records frequently refer to this matter.

One of the objects of the Norwich Rural Association, formed in 1869, was declared to be "to repair and keep in order the old Burying Ground," and an attempt was made to ornament it with trees, shrubbery and walks. Considerable sums were spent, from time to time, under the auspices of the Association. During its early years, a generous gift from Miss Rebecca Townsend effected needed improvements. The rustic gateways, at the two entrances, owe their existence to the initiative of this organization. They were designed by George A. Rudd in 1877.

In 1877, the First Society appointed Wm. B. Lathrop "Superintendent of the Old Cemetery," "to do all necessary acts in compliance with the laws of the state concerning the management of cemeteries."

Of late years the care of this ancient burying place has passed into the hands of the town. Undertakers from outside the parish now care for the burying of the dead. The old hearse and bier which, till quite recent days used to be owned by the society, housed in the burying ground lane, and under the official direction of the sextons, have disappeared, together with their earthly house, and the too long and too close *visible* alliance, between the church and death, has been dissolved. It is remembered by many that one of the last uses of the bier, was to carry the body of Dr. Arms from his house to the church in 1882. Now-a-days the church yard is no longer a grave yard. The sexton is no longer the undertaker. The surroundings of the meeting house speak as they should of life. The seriousness of life, rather than the solemnity of death, are now suggested by the church's life and work. A spirit of cheer and strenuous activity pervades the places where the people of God meet to worship and work. The pall of darkness, the dim religious light, and the dusky and dusty interior are giving place to something much more useful and inspiring. The church in its evolution has not forgotten death, but it has allied itself more and more with life and the living. Its preparation for death is not in making men think about death, but in leading them to think about

life, and what life is for. The hearse and the grave-stone do not, in these days, greet the eyes of the church-goers as they used to. In place of them we are reminded that

Life is real, life is earnest,  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returneth,  
Was not spoken of the soul.

This evolution of the meeting house of the First Society in Norwich, during the past century, is a part of the larger unfolding of the idea of worship and work which, beginning with the meeting house, as a *shrine*, ends with making it a part of a great religious *plant*—a hive of industry, working out salvation for the community and the world.

The earliest meeting house of our fathers of Israel was the bare "Tent of Meeting," pitched without the camp, for the leaders only to enter. They went in to worship, the people stood afar off and looked on, or worshiped before their tent doors. The Tabernacle in the wilderness was not meant to hold the people, it simply enshrined the presence of Jehovah. The few selected ones went in to meet God, and do work *for* the people. So, of the Temple, ornate and rich; its courts were not within, but outside, where the people halted. None could enter save the few. It was no gathering place for the people to see and hear and get inspiration. It was God's House, where he was to be worshiped by selected servants. Later, the meeting house was opened more freely to the people. It was a place where they could meet one another and hear and learn. The synagogue and the basilica set the type of architecture. The shrine is replaced largely by the school. The worship-idea takes on the work-idea, and always, when religion is alive and men are thoughtful, the architecture of the meeting house betrays the need of a place both for worship and for work.

"When thought had little to do with religion and the great object of the church service was to impress the senses and to inspire devout feelings, men built the cathedral, which stood like a petrified forest among whose stony trunks and branches sifted the colored lights



of stained windows, while into the lofty arches floated sacred incense mingled with the sweet harmonies of music. The cathedral was a wretched auditorium, but was admirably adapted to the prevailing conception of public worship and the uses of the sanctuary."

"Among the peoples where the right of private judgment triumphed, and religion came to be regarded not as a matter of feeling, but of life to be controlled by conviction rather than impulse, there instruction naturally became the principal part of public worship, and the church, accordingly became an auditorium where the people met to hear the sermon. Thus the plain 'meeting house' of the reformed churches was as perfect an expression of the religious life which worshiped within as the cathedral of the middle ages."—(Josiah Strong's Religious Movement for Social Betterment.)

In the institutional church, whither all things are now tending, there has appeared a new type of church architecture which differs as widely from the meeting house of the past few centuries, as that differed from the cathedral which preceded it, and this change in the church edifice is the natural and necessary result of the change which is taking place in the churches' conception of their mission, and the best methods of realizing it.

"The audience room, of course, remains, but it no longer monopolizes the structure. With the larger conception of Christianity which is beginning to obtain, there are added to the auditorium parlors for the cultivation of the social life, reading rooms, class-rooms and shops, for intellectual and industrial training, and, more remarkable still, facilities for physical culture and for recreation—a gymnasium, baths, very likely a swimming pool, and, perhaps, a bowling alley, which not long since would have been deemed sacrilegious."

And more than this, the building or buildings composing this plant or hive, are kept open daily and used to influence the great tides of life, which constantly flow past and into them. From the small tent of meeting set down before, and yet away from the hosts of Israel, silent and deserted for the most part, to the great room and buildings of the modern church plant thronged with people

bent on helpful work or pleasure, the way is long. It marks the evolution of the idea of what Christianity is for.

On the background of this great change, observable in the universal church life and work, it has been instructive for us, this morning, to sketch the evolution of the meeting house in this old First Society. When the last century began, our church architecture had almost reached the cathedral stage. Never before nor since have the worshipers around the old Town Green looked upon clustered columns and Gothic arches. But though the form was allied to the mediaeval times, the spirit was quite alive to the nineteenth century. The great working forces of the Church of Christ in America were gathering in those early years of the last century, and revivals and missionary societies followed each other closely during the first half of it.

We have noted the architectural change here from the first rough board building on the plain, up to the beautiful church whose centennial we celebrate to-day, the growing size, to meet the needs of the increasing population, the adaptations for beauty and use in steeple and bell and clock, and since this building was erected, it has gathered beside itself and into itself other working forces that have to-day developed into quite a working church. Note the different changes looking toward recognition of others' rights and the church's duties, seen in the exchange of the square, high-sided, shut-in family pews, for the more elegant and pulpit-facing slips, still, however, at first with *doors* to be fastened against intruders. Then see how the sexton was requested to show strangers to seats, and how, later, special committees and now ushers are regularly employed for that purpose, while boards of parish visitors gently compel those who are without to come in. It would not be possible now in scarcely any church, for two young lads to wander into the awful stillness of the many-seated audience room, and slipping into an unoccupied seat, be unceremoniously hustled out by some one in authority and remanded to a seat by the door, or, perhaps, effectually rebuffed from entertaining the idea that the meeting house was for the likes of them.

Our fathers early sought to provide a place for conference and

worship in less formal mood than on the Sabbath. They built a conference house. They opened the galleries and the floor of the meeting house to the Sunday-school. A building was added for Sunday-school purposes, and within that building was put pastor's library and study, and a kitchen and parlor and, organically united therewith, a parsonage was attempted. These rooms utilized weekly, by prayer and missionary circles and young people's societies, show how far we have outrun the fathers—not that they held back, but that they had not the goal in view which we have. A wider fellowship came in when ministers' rates were abolished (1782), and the pews rented, as they began to be with us in 1791, and free seats for the whole or a part of the day, and other like amenities were offered, showing how the meeting house and its management have adapted themselves to the democracy of Christianity and to the leavening of society.

These things have not taken away from the idea of worship which still inheres to the meeting house—still the larger auditorium—but they have helped to make the worship work, and to make it useful. All things with us are not indeed under the same roof, but all are united in the idea of our church work, and every successive change in church or chapel adapts itself to voice the many-sounding and widely-speaking life of the modern church.

In developing the idea of usefulness we, by no means, are overlooking that of beauty. The meeting house hill, or square or green should be the best kept and most attractive in the town. I forecast the future hereabouts by noting the early, probable, successful effort to grow ampelopsis over the front and sides of the chapel—an effort which was once made and not followed up in the spirit of the beauty of holiness; the grading and seeding of the grounds before the meeting house door; the removal of the old shops and buildings on the west side of the house and the exposure in all its native beauty of the rocky cliff that smiles down upon our sacred planting.

This will be a recurrence to the past, but justifiable in the interest of our quickened sense of Nature's beauty. The action of our forefathers, when they were about to build on this site nearly 150 years ago, may well be imitated. Then (10 March, 1752) they



"voted that all incumbrances be removed from the west side of the meeting house plain, under the site of the Great Rocks by ye Town Street, that said land may be free for public use." Miss Caulkins says that "the clearing was effected, and the street left open from the green to the printing office (standing then just at the bend of the road). This was public land, and the wall of granite rose up grand and inspiring by the side of the road, with shrubs and creepers hanging over and jutting out of the crevices, and with no disfiguration of man about the base, except posts and sheds for the convenience of those who rode to meeting on the Sabbath."

There is reason to believe that the owner of the dwelling houses under the rocks will co-operate with the church in securing the removal of all these blots on the fair face of this meeting house plot, and thus again will be made glad the approaches to our Zion. So will the passing public be led to admire, where now they avert their faces, and with even greater joy than usual draw water out of *our* well of salvation.









April 1997

Warren & Betty,

While going through a pile of  
stuff today, guess what I found?

Sorry -

Hope the enclosed is interesting

Blessing &  
Bill Trout



First Congregational Church, Inc., Norwichtown, Conn.



A Later Fitch



A Mason Home

Original town plot of John Mason where first home in  
Norwich was built.

Replaced by Court House then made into John Mason  
School





Meeting House Rock



The Church on the Hill





Where Puritan feet have trod  
Up the hill to church





They still sometimes have services up here







Watch! Are the enemies coming?

Around the Green



Joseph's Carpenter Shop - 1972





Daniel Hathrop School - 1783



Church

Jesse Brown Tavern - 1790



Simon Huntington House - 1690



Lathrop House 1747 - enlarged in 1764





Jesse Brown Tavern across the green



Another view of the Mason Home



Lord's Tavern which was built in 1760 on  
the lot that belonged to Rev. James.  
86 Towne Street







Yes, Rev. James even had a McDonald's !



At Town Street and Cemetery Lane

Dates From 1715



Rev. James's son  
Jeremiah Fitch  
married  
Ruth Gifford  
daughter of  
Stephen & Hannah

Corrected date  
He died 1724  
at 83 years so  
this was Rev. James  
friend &  
neighbor

His wife Hannah  
died the same  
year at 79 yrs.

Supposed to have  
been twin head  
stones

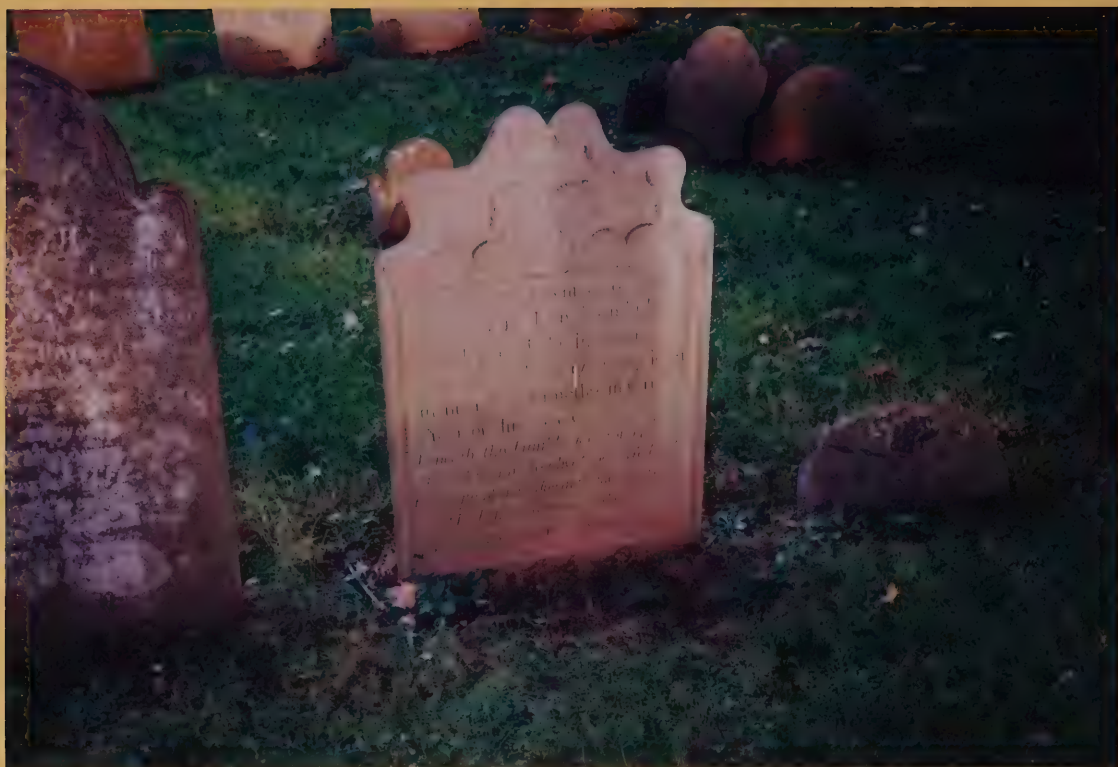
Mr. Stephen Gifford died 1794 at 83 years  
friend of Rev. James - No, not possible but he had  
a Stephen Gifford as friend



Christopher Huntington born in 1660  
First male born in Norwich

Son of Christopher I & Ruth Rockwell





1794 2 Sons of John Trumbull after 4 days of illness  
 John 15  
 Timothy 11



Their son, Benjamin

Abigail, wife of Benjamin Lord  
 Minister 1716-1784



Samuel Tracey ——— who died of smallpox  
At the age of 75 years



Cemetery in the center of Norwichtown - Old Norwich





Samuel Huntington House 1769



Heffingwell Inn Museum 1675



lovely Noewick-made clock





Pewter for the guests



to turn the meat over the fire





Old flag- 13 stars



Hard work represented here  
For dipping candles



Childhood Treasures!













Welcome to Trumbull Cemetery  
where lies Rev. James and many of his family







Stone of Rev. James Fitch



## INSCRIPTION OF REV. JAMES FITCH TOMBSTONE

In this tomb are deposited the remains of the truly Reverend Mr. James Fitch, born at Bocking, in the county of Essex, England, Dec. 24, 1622, who after he had been well-instructed in the learned languages, came to New England at the age of 16, and passed seven years under the instruction of those eminent divines Mr. Hooker and Mr. Stone. Afterward, he discharged the pastoral office at Saybrook for 14 years, from whence, with the greater part of his church, he removed to Norwich, and there spent the succeeding years of his life, engaged in the work of the gospel. Until age and infirmity obliged him to withdraw from public labor. At length, he retired to his children at Lebanon, when scarcely half a year had passed, when he fell asleep in Jesus, Nov. 18, 1702, in the 80th year of his life (age). He was a man for penetration of mind, solidity of judgment, charity, devotion to the sacred duties of his office, and entire holiness of life, as also for skill and energy in preaching, inferior to none.

The inscription is in Latin and it seems impossible that it could say all of the above, but that is the way it has been translated.





*Inscription in latin*







Captain Nathaniel Fitch, son of Rev. James

Ann Abel, his first wife







Mindwell Tisdale, his second wife

Together they had 15 children  
for Nathaniel



Captain Joseph Fitch, son of Rev. James  
or son of Joseph





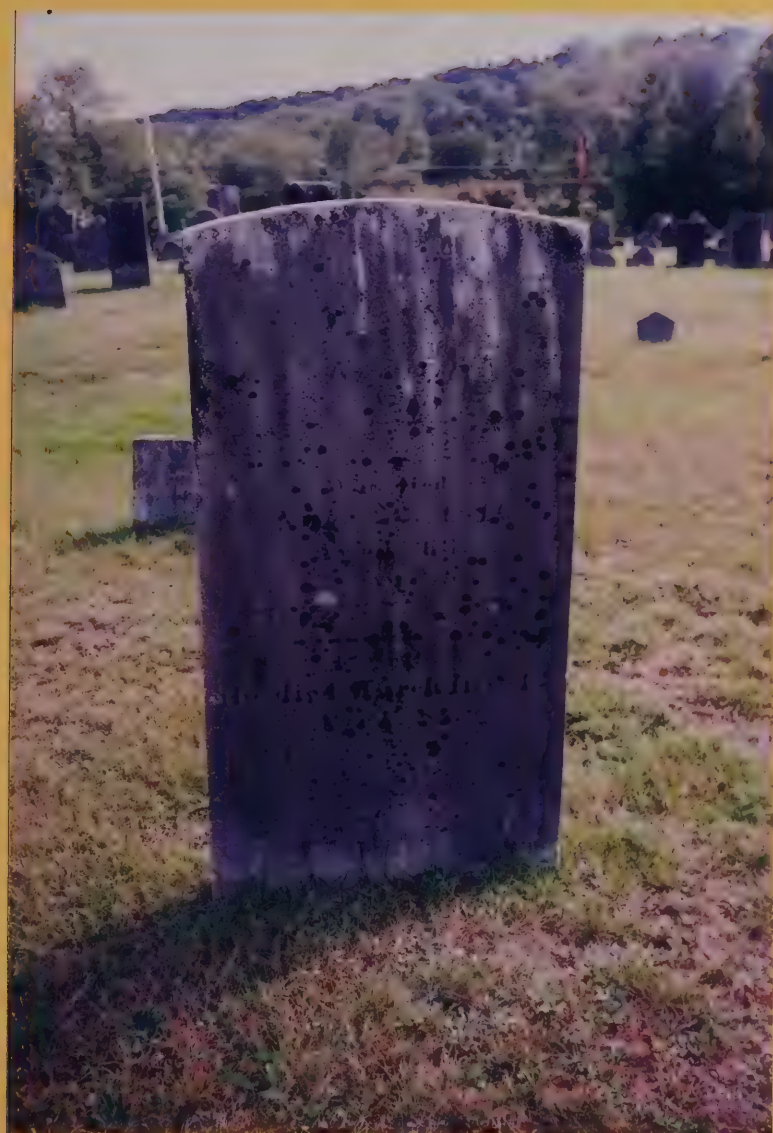
Jabez Fitch, son of Rev. James  
OR son of Nathaniel, who lost a  
son early







Rachel or Rachil Fitch probably 6 ye old daughter of  
Nathaniel and Ann

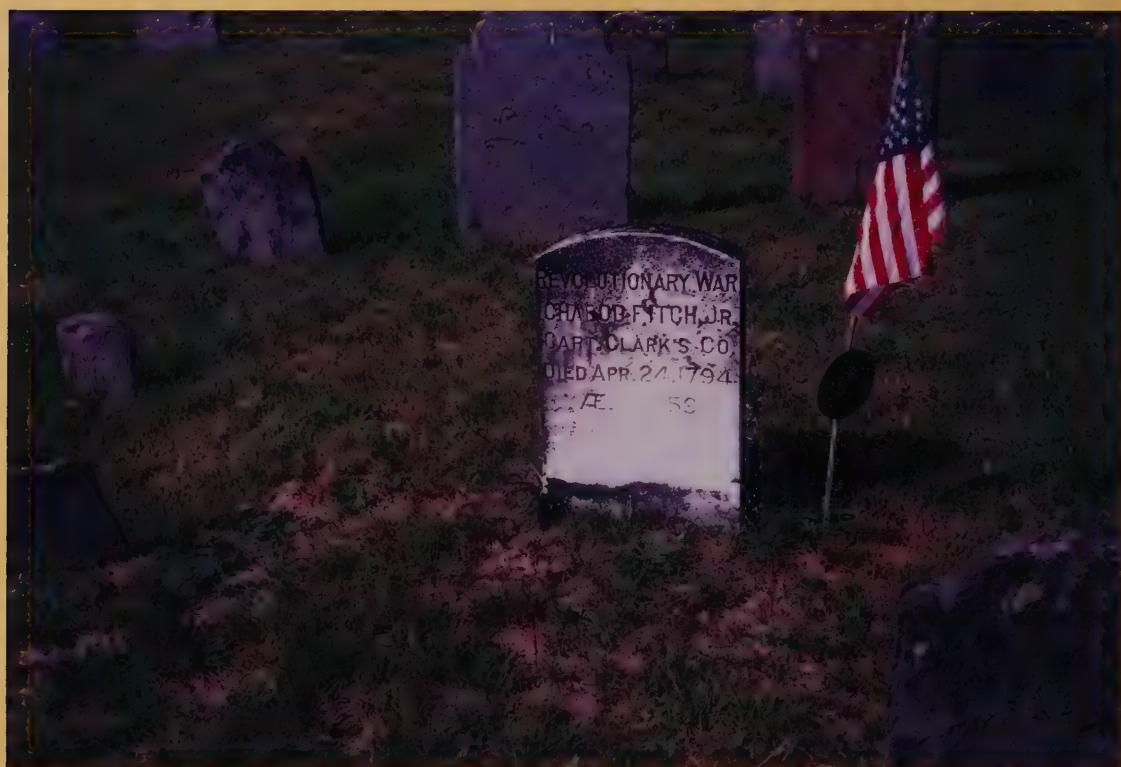






In Memory of Lucy (?) wife of Ichabod Fitch  
died Aug 19, 1774

Probably there was just one Ichabod  
and he married Lucy Katheop 1758

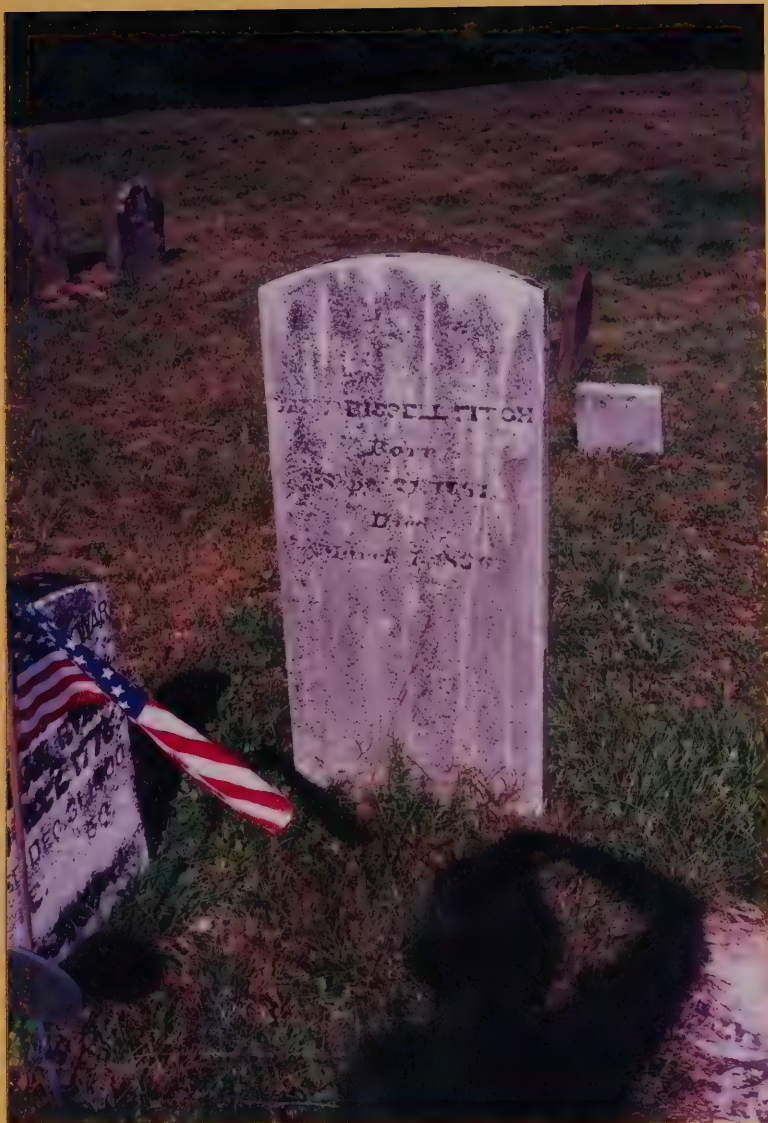


Ichabod Fitch, Jr. Capt. Clark's Co. Revolutionary War  
died Apr. 24, 1794 Age 59

His birth 5-17-1734

Son of Joseph Fitch and Ann Whiting  
grandson of Rev. James





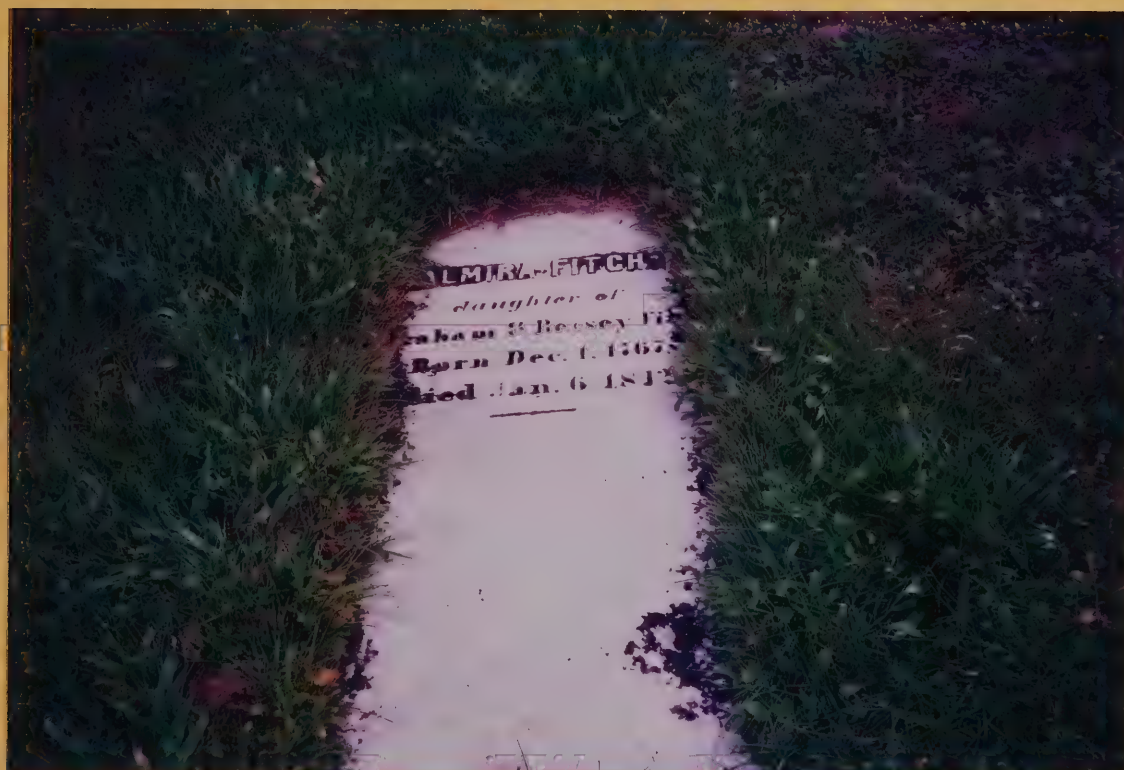
Benjamin  
Ann Bissell Fitch

BORN  
Sept 21, 1761 1757

Died 1836  
MAAch 7

DR. Benj Bissell Fitch  
son of Abraham + Betsey  
Bissell  
Fitch

sister  
Almira  
below

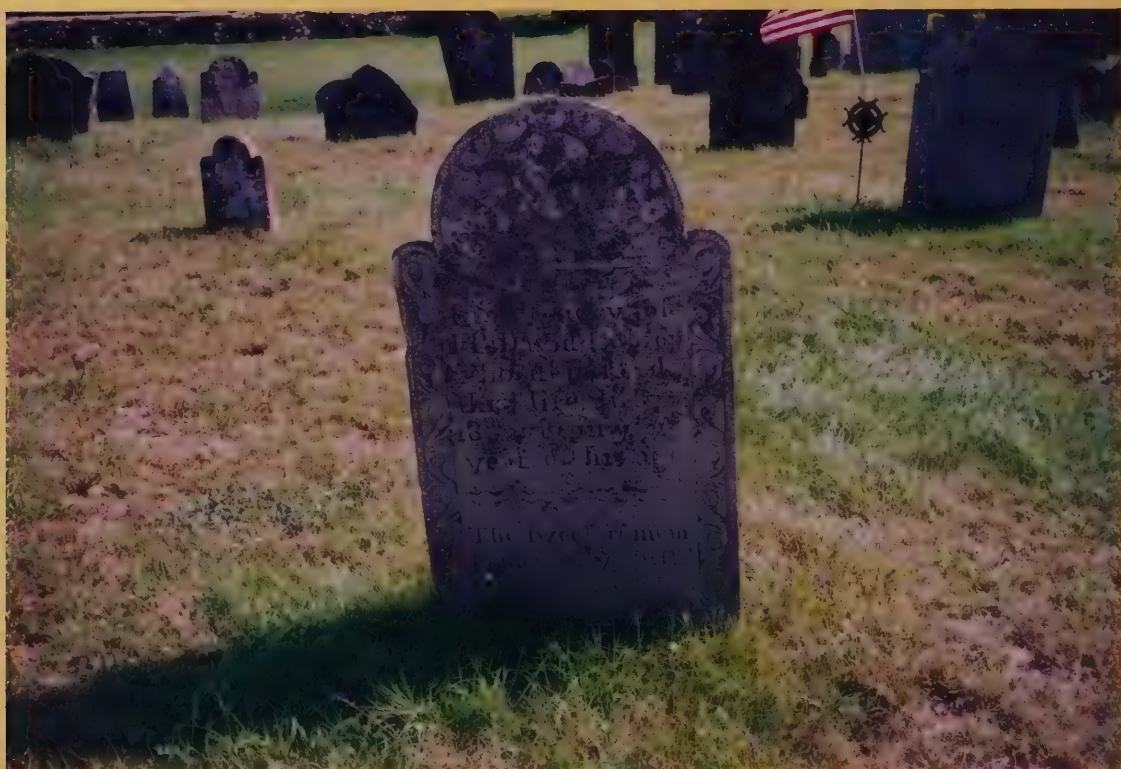


Abraham  
son of Nathan  
+  
Hannah  
Huntington  
Son of Cpt.  
Nathaniel +  
Ann Abel.  
Son of Rev James  
+  
Priscilla Maso

MARRIED  
Elizabeth  
"Betsey"  
Bissell

Almira Fitch, daughter of Graham + Betsey Fitch (or Abraham)  
Born Dec. 1, 1767 died Jan 6, 1842













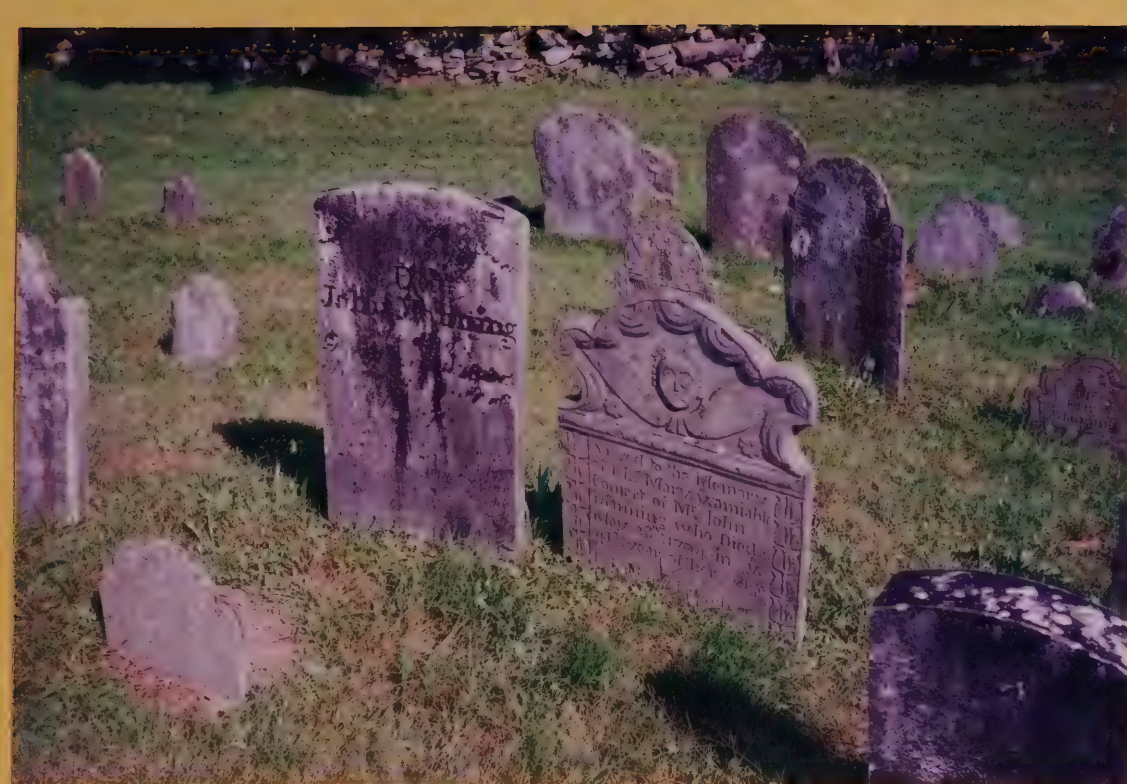
Other names  
John Manning  
Josiah Phelps

Elizabeth Brewster



Elizabeth Arnold, wife of Josiah Arnold





John Manning

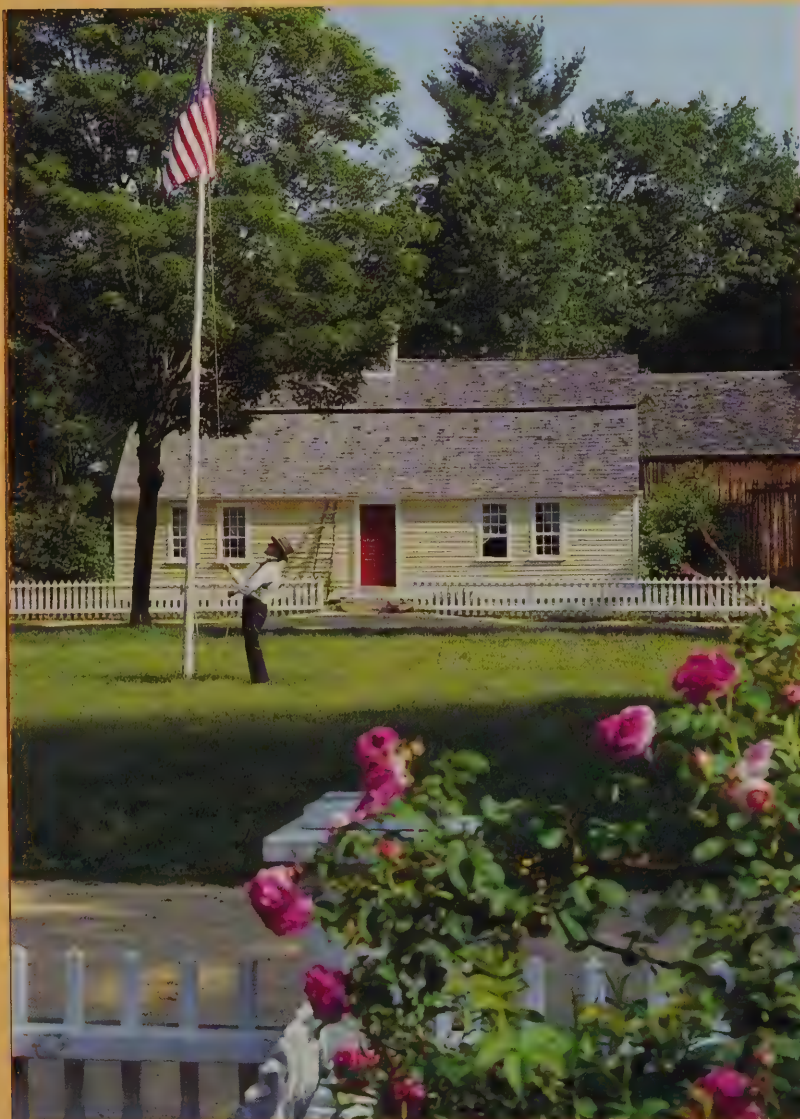






Fenno  
House

Fitch House in the background



This is the Fitch House  
at Storbridge Village  
moved there

I believe this was Stephen  
Fitch's house. Stephen, son of  
Captain Jeremiah, son of  
Rev. James

The house was originally  
in Willimantic, Windam Co.  
Conn.





Norwalk was settled in 1649 and incorporated in 1651.

Preparations for the settlement of Norwich began in Saybrook as early as 1654, under the leadership of the famous and martial Captain John Mason, with whom were associated 34 others. Mason had been the friend and adviser of the wily Uncas for 24 years, and having visited him frequently, was thoroughly acquainted with the country, and it was doubtless by Mason's influence that Uncas and his two sons appeared at Saybrook in June, 1659, and signed a deed of conveyance, which gave the company of 35 proprietors a title to a tract of land of nine square miles at Mohican. (Read about Rev. James Fitch's Mile for more details) There was another reason, for in 1645, Uncas was closely besieged by the Narragansetts, and Capt. Mason, who was in command at the Saybrook Fort, sent a boat-load of beef, corn, and peas by night, under the command of Thomas Leffingwell, and Uncas never forgot the favor. Seventy pounds was the price for the land, and since Connecticut had bought it before and paid for it, the English were more than fair with the Indians. Mason was then commissioned by the legislature to buy the rest of the Mohican country, which he did, and a deed of cession was signed in August, 1659, and in the following November, a few settlers made their way to the new town and spent the winter there. The Mohicans assisted them in carrying their goods, and soon the town was laid out. The earliest act recorded on the town book was on December 11, 1660, and the name Norwich was given to the place about 1662. The settlers were the church of the Rev. James Fitch of Saybrook, and the minister was a leading spirit in the enterprise. There was much trouble and litigation in later years between the settlers and the Indians over the title to the lands, since it was claimed that UNcas had made over the title of the land to Mason to secure them to his tribe, of which Mason was the guardian. One phase of this was the act of Mason in 1671, in making over to the tribe a tract of more than 4,000 acres, usually called the sequestered lands. But disputes continued for 70 years over the lands occupied by the settlers in Colchester, Windham, Mansfield, Hebron, and some other towns, and it was not until 1743, that the case was settled by a decision to refer the matter to the king in council. The final decision was given in 1767, and it was against the Mohicans, who soon faded away. The same year of the settlement of Norwich, 1660, Suffield was settled, the land having been bought of two sachems for \$100.

In 1675, Joshua, son of Uncas, the Mohican Sachem, gave by will to Captain Mason and 15 others the tract containing Windham, Mansfield, and Canterbury, and in May, 1686, the main streets of Windham were laid out.





## Wars with the Indians ....

The formidable Pequots, left to battle alone, spared no pains to provoke resentment. Early in October, they attacked 5 hay-makers from the Saybrook garrison; seized a man named Butterfield and tortured him to death, and a few days after, they took two men from a boat, one they killed, the other, Joseph Tilly, was tortured to death by cutting off hands and feet. The Saybrook fort was in a state of siege all winter; outhouses and haystacks burned; cattle killed or wounded. In March, Gardener, the commander, went out with ten men to work on the land; they were waylaid, three slain, the rest escaped to the fort which was at once surrounded by a great number of Pequots, who challenged the English to come out and fight, mocking the groans and prayers of the tortured men, boasting that they could kill the English "all one flies" until the grape shot drove them away. Not long after this, three men sailing down the river were overpowered, one man was killed and fell overboard, the others were cut in two lengthwise and hung up on the river bank. In April, Indians went as far as Wethersfield and waylaid some farmers while going to their fields, killed two men, and a woman and child. They carried away two girls, killed twenty cows, and destroyed other property.

(That story is continued, to be copied later if needed, pages 39 to 45)

Uncas, lived only two or three years to enjoy his one-sided arrangement, dying in 1682 or 1683. His son, Owenico was in a still more pitiful state at the end. In 1680, he made over all the lands his father had given him on the Quinnebaug to James Fitch, his loving friend, as he called him, giving as a reason for the deed the fact that some of the English extorted land from him by importunities, and others by inducing him to sign papers while he was under the influence of strong liquors. James Fitch was the son of the Norwich minister, but unlike his father was grasping and eager for land. Major James Fitch had married Elizabeth Mason, daughter of Major John Mason. One night Owenico became very drunk, fell out of his canoe, and would have drowned had it not been for two settlers, to one of whom he gave 100 acres of land. This princely, Owenico, the brave warrior in early manhood, became a vagabond in his old age.

Rev. Abraham Pierson of Branford learned the Indian language and preached to the Indians. Fitch and Narber did likewise.

It is not strange that men who were addicted to war, revenge, and laziness, should have found little in the Bible to please them. The friendly and patient, Rev. James Fitch, of Norwich did everything in his power to Christianize the Mohicans, preaching to them in 1671, and later, but he was forced to admit that "Uncas and Owenico at first carried it teachably and tractably, till they discerned that practical religion would throw down their heathenish idols, and the tyrannical authority of the sachems;



then they went away and threw off their people, some by flatteries and some by threats."

Page 96 ...

In 1680, Catpain Fitch of Norwich was granted two hundred acres on condition that he build a saw mill in a certain place.

Page 142 ...

We have noticed that at first the support of ministers was by voluntary contributions, a method which worked well, while devotion to religion flamed. It was the custom, for example, in Norwich, for the people to carry their proportion of wheat, rye, peas, and Indian corn on or before March 20, but it became necessary even in Norwich, trained as it was by the Rev. James Fitch, to appoint collectors, which was done in 1686, and monthly contributions were sometimes taken to make up deficiencies. We have spoken of the code of 1650, as requiring all persons to bear their share, and soon it was the custom to lay a tax of from one penny to threepence in the pound "for the encouragement of the ministry", but, in 1677 the matter was transferred to the town, and made a part of the town finances, and at that time a regular salary was proposed. There was a custom which tended toward the permanence of the pastorate, and that was the habit of laying a special tax when a minister was installed over a church; a sum equal to the salary of two years was paid him "for settlement", as it was called, and with the amount he bought land, built a house and barn, and thus made a home, which he was supposed to occupy until death. It was expensive to settle a minister, and there was more than one reason that the churches were reluctant to change. The permanence of the pastorate, together with the fact that the minister was usually the best educated man in the community, tended to give him a prominent place in the life of a town.





## KING PHILLIPS War

" He mentions next, the small number of those belonging to the Mohegans, and living at New Warwich, Conn., who had been taught by Rev. James Fitch, pastor of the church at Norwich. There were about 40 of these Indians who had become Christians in profession through the efforts of Mr. Fitch; while Uncas their chief and his son Oneko were bitterly opposed to the teaching and preaching among the Mohegans, But all were on friendly terms with the colonies.





(for although he be a friend to the *English*, yet he and all his men continue *Pagans* still) set his *Powaws* on work to see if they could by powawing (*i.e.* conjuring) procure rain, but all in vain; He therefore sent Westward to a noted *Powaw*, to try his skill, but neither could that Wizzard by all his hideous and diabolical howlings, obtain Showers. Whereupon he (*i. e.* *Uncas*) applyed himself to Mr. *Fitch* (the faithfull and able Teacher of the Church in *Norwich*) desiring that he would pray to God for rain. Mr. *Fitch* replied to him, that if he should do so, and God should hear him, as long as their *Powaws* were at work, they would ascribe the rain to them, and think that the Devill whome the *Indians* worship, and not God had sent that rain, and therefore he would not set himself to pray for it, until they had done with their vanities and witcheries. *Uncas* and his Son *Owenece* declared that they had left off *Powawing*, despairing to obtain what they desired. Mr. *Fitch* therefore called his Church together, and they set themselves by Fasting and Prayer, to ask of the Lord Rain in the time of the latter Rain, and behold! that very night, and the next day, He that saith to the small rain, and to the great rain of his Strength, be thou upon the earth, gave most plentiful showers, inasmuch as the Heathen were affected therewith, acknowledging that God whom we serve is a great God, and there is none like unto him.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hubbard has a letter from great drouth, printed in his *Narrative*, 113-15. The Rev. gentleman the Rev. Mr. Fitch concerning this





## the Indians in New-England. 191

August 6. An Indian that deserted his Fellows, informed the inhabitants of Taunton that a party of Indians who might be easily surpris'd, were not very far off, and promised to conduct any that had a mind to apprehend those Indians in the right way towards them, whereupon about twenty Souldiers marched out of Taunton, and they took all those Indians, being in number thirty and six, only the Squaw-Sachem of Pocasset, who was next [46] unto Philip in respect to the mischief that hath been done, and the blood that hath been shed in this Warr, escaped alone; but not long after some of Taunton finding an Indian Squaw in Metapisset newly dead, cut off her head, and it hapned to be Weetamos, i. e. Squaw-Sachem her head. When it was set upon a pole in Taunton, the Indians who were prisoners there knew it presently, and made a most horrid and diabolical Lamentation, crying out that it was their Queens head. Now here it is to be observed, that God himself by his own hand brought this enemy to destruction. For in that place, where the last year, she furnished Philip

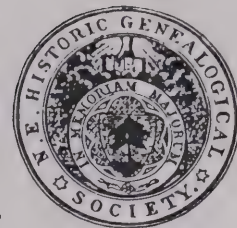
(Mr. Fitch) got out of his dilemma about as well as did another minister, who was settled on the condition that he would cause it to rain when rain was wanted. A drouth at length came. Some of his parishoners called upon him to pray for rain, as it was much needed; but rain did not come. Some began to grow dissatisfied; several called upon him together prepared to charge him with breach of contract.

After hearing them patiently, he said they must all be of one mind in desiring rain, otherwise praying would be of no use; besides he knew there were some who were not ready for it. The Parson was not further troubled. It would probably have been quite difficult for Uncas to satisfy the good Minister of Norwich that the Indians had ceased howling, had not rain followed his prayers.





# NE HGS NEXUS



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THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. X, Nos. 5 & 6

October-December, 1993

Boston, Massachusetts



Edward III, King of  
England, post 1340



Emily Jane Angell,  
ca. 1862





John Mason deceased...a certain tract of Land on y<sup>e</sup> west of Norwich Town Bounds...and whereas my honoured father in his life time did Agree too and with my Honoured grandfather the Reverant Mr. James Fitch of Norwich [John III's maternal grandfather] that my said Grand father should petition the Genrall Court...that my Honoured grandfather and his heir or Asigns should y<sup>e</sup> Moety [moiety] or half that should be by the Court Granted...and I finding that my Grandfather hath obtained grant of y<sup>e</sup> Court...

To All Christian people to whome these presents may come know you that I John Mason unto my Honoured Grand father...Grant unto the above named James Fitch...all the Above...[5]

Three or four years later, on 9 March 1698/9, James quitclaimed half the land to the heirs of Capt. John Mason [6]. Probably on the same day, Rev. Fitch and his 26-year old grandson John Mason III agreed on a division of the "Fitch and Mason" into six parts. Fig. 2 is an attempt to reconstruct these divisions, based on the following entry in the Lebanon records:

The first Devision of the Mile of Land west of present Norwich bounds belongs to John Mason bounded on the River Northeast Abutting east south east on Norwich bounds abutting west Northwest on Indian Land Abutting South southwest on Land of Joseph Ranalds Isral Lothrop the heirs of Jonathan Foster and Lout<sup>n</sup> Backus. [7]

This first division evidently had its southwestern end on a 440-acre piece that James had already sold to Messrs. Backus *et al.* ("Foster," incidentally, was "Fouller" in the earlier transaction).

The second Devision of Land belongs to the Rever<sup>nd</sup> M<sup>r</sup> James Fitch abutting north north east on the first Division three hundred and twenty rods abutting west north west on Indian lands from thence to Suscutonescut Brook Abutting south south east on said Brook through out y<sup>e</sup> mile abutting east south east on Norwich bounds from Suscakokomscut brook to the first Division[.]

The "three hundred and twenty rods" tells us that the strip was, in fact, one mile wide.

The third division belongs to John Mason Abutting north northeast Suscutomscut Brook throughout y<sup>e</sup> mile Abutting west North west on Lebanon Land two hundred Rods Abutting south southeast on Norwich bounds three hundred and twenty Rods Abutting on the highway which runs from Lebanon Towne Street South South east untill it comes to the South end of A swamp called Elderkins swamp Then it runs east south east Across the mile[.]

This division includes the area from the brook down to the road that now connected Norwich Town to the Lebanon area.

The fourth division of Land belongs to y<sup>e</sup> Rever<sup>nt</sup> M<sup>r</sup> James Fitch Abutting on y<sup>e</sup> high way North norwest and North North east throughout y<sup>e</sup> mile Abutting west North west on Lebanon Land three hundred & twenty Rods Abutting east southeast on Norwich bounds two hundred Rods Abutting South south west on the farms layed out on peases Brook three hundred and twenty Rods

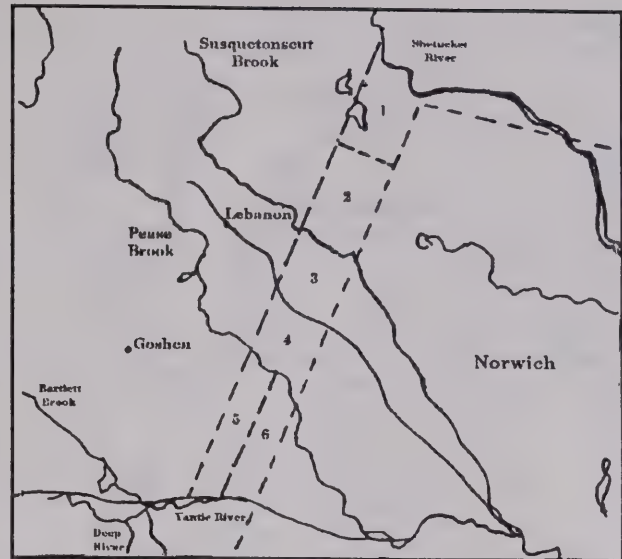


Fig. 2: Mr. Fitch's Mile as divided in 1699.

Below the fourth division, the land is split into two strips.

The fifth division of Land belongs to John Mason Abutting east north east on said farm eight score Rods Abutting North north west on Indian Land from the said farm to Hockunum path or wethersfield Road Abutting southward on y<sup>e</sup> abovesaid Road half the mile abutting south south east on y<sup>e</sup> sixth division

The "Hockunum path or wethersfield Road" is the road west which ran through James Fitch's Deep River property. After passing through Colchester, it turned northwest toward Hartford. Both Hockanum and Wethersfield are just south of Hartford, the former on the east side of the Connecticut, the latter on the west.

The sixth division of Land belongs to the Rever<sup>nt</sup> James Fitch Abutting east north east on the farm of John Baldwin eight score Rods Abutting North north west on the fift devision from y<sup>e</sup> Above said farm to wethersfield path Abutting southward on the Above said path half the mile Abutting South south east on Norwich Line this Distribution of the Mile of Land west of Norwich Bounds made and Agreed to the 9th day of March 1699[.]

The surveyor for the division was John Fitch, the minister's son. Rev. James Fitch received the even-numbered divisions, John Mason III the odd ones. Note that the property extends beyond the Five Mile at both ends (in fact it even extended a little past the present eastern boundary of Lebanon, to the river). This extension accounts for the change in the description of the outer boundaries of the divisions between Indian land and Lebanon land.

The division explains why the grant came to be called the "Fitch and Mason." As to why it was also known as "Mr. Fitch's Mile," we can only speculate that it was named after residents — Rev. James Fitch and several sons actually lived on the land, while John Mason lived in Stonington.





## "Mr. Fitch's Mile"

by John T. Fitch

Lebanon, Connecticut, a mere dot on a road map of that state, is an attractive New England town noted for its mile-long Common. The town lies just to the northwest of Norwich and has its origins in the expansion of Norwich residents to land beyond the "nine miles square" they had bought from the Mohegan sachem Uncas. The first grants in the area were given in 1663 to Maj. John Mason (ca. 1600-1672), deputy governor of the Connecticut colony, and in 1668 to Rev. James Fitch (1622-1702), minister of Norwich. These two men were doubly connected by marriage. Rev. Fitch's second wife was Mason's daughter Priscilla, and John Mason, Jr. married Abigail Fitch, the minister's daughter by his first wife, Abigail Whitfield (for some notable descendants of Rev. Henry Whitfield, founder of Guilford, Connecticut, and his wife Dorothy Sheafe, parents of Abigail, see *NEXUS* 10[1993]:71, 74). Maj. Mason and Rev. Fitch were also among the founders of Norwich. The grants were in the southwestern part of what is now Lebanon, an area the Indians called Pomakuck, and lay between Deep River and Goshen Hill. Fig. 1 is a reconstructed map of the area, based on maps in G. McL. Milne, *Lebanon* (1986), p. 6.

The next significant grant was a strip of land a mile wide and about six miles long on the Norwich border; this land became known as "Mr. Fitch's Mile," "the Fitch and Mason," or just "The Mile." Then, in 1692, four Norwich men bought a large tract from Owaneco, one of the sons of Uncas; this area was called the "Five Miles Square" or simply the "Five Mile." The dashed line represents the Owaneco grant; the solid outer perimeter is the present Lebanon boundary. The Lebanon Historical Society has even located a 1693 corner marker known as the "Five Mile Rock" at the southwest corner of the tract.

Traditionally, it has been thought that, a few years before selling the "Five Mile," Owaneco had given the "Mile" to Rev. Fitch. As Frances Caulkins wrote in *History of Norwich, Connecticut* (1873) following the description of James Fitch's Pomakuck grant:

To this grant, Owaneco, the son and successor of Uncas, at a subsequent period, in acknowledgement of favors received from Mr. Fitch, added a tract Five miles in length and one in breadth. This munificent gift was familiarly called *the Mile*, or *Mr. Fitch's Mile*. [1]

Others have repeated this story: notably, Rev. Orlo D. Hine in *Early Lebanon* (1880) (pp. 9-10); the 1986 town history cited above; and Robert Charles Anderson, who in a master's thesis on the settlement of Lebanon [2] cited a 1687 Norwich land record [3] which seemed to support it.

All of these accounts are incorrect. The land was not given by Owaneco, but by Joshua, another of the sons of Uncas, and it was given to Capt. John Mason, Jr. (1646-1676), not to Mason's father-in-law Rev. Fitch. The grant was made not in 1687 but eleven years earlier, in 1676. The 1687 grant by Owaneco cited in the Anderson thesis was to Capt. James Fitch, son of Rev. James Fitch,

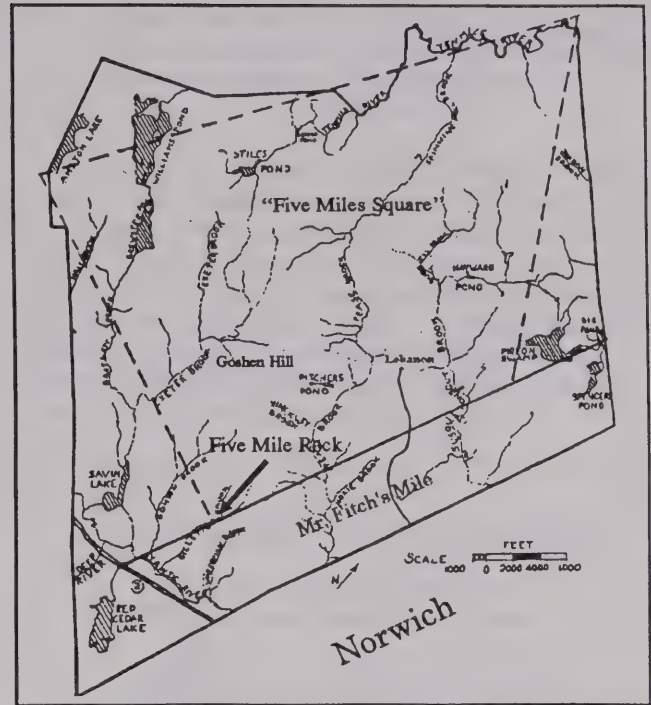


Fig. 1: "Mr. Fitch's Mile" and the "Five Miles Square" (Courtesy Lebanon Historical Society)

and was for land to the northeast of Norwich. The 1687 tract does include (as the first of many items) a piece "six or seven miles in length and a mile in breadth." But that piece was "bounded east on quinnabaug River" (the Quinnabaug joins the Shetucket River northeast of Norwich). The actual grant for what became Mr. Fitch's Mile was on 8 March 1675/6, three months after Capt. Mason had received his "death wound" in King Philip's War (he lived nearly a year thereafter) and two months before the death of Joshua.

Lyme this 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1675/76 Know all men by These presents that I Joshua Seachem of a great part of the Moheag Country doe for divers good & valluable considerations & for sufficient reasons moveing me thereunto doe freely give & bequeath unto Cap<sup>t</sup> John Mason of the Towne of Norwich a certaine Tracke & parcell of land lyeing & being on the north west side of Norwich Bounds bounded as followeth one mile from Norwich Bound<sup>s</sup> westward w<sup>ch</sup> is to be the breadth thereof, & in length to run from Hartford Roade to Showtuckett River.... [4]

A strip of land a mile wide along the northwest border of Norwich, from the road toward Colchester up to the Shetucket River, would be about six miles in length along its inner border and seven miles along its outer. How then did this land given to John Mason, Jr., become known as "Mr. Fitch's Mile" or the "Fitch and Mason"? We know that Mason gave half the land to Fitch, because on 26 June 1695, his son John Mason III (1672-1736), who lived at Stonington on the coast, formally acknowledged the arrangement.

Whereas Joshua sonn of unkas Sacham of mohegen did in his life time...confirm unto my honoured father Captain





Mary E. Perkins wrote in 1895 that the Biblical name *Lebanon* "was suggested to Mr. Fitch, by the height of the land, and a large cedar forest" (M.E. Perkins, *Old Houses of the Ancient Town of Norwich, 1660-1800* [1895], p. 97). In the lower left corner of Fig. 1 there is a "Red Cedar Lake," close to Rev. Fitch's Deep River land. Rev. Fitch also owned a "Ceder Swamp" in that area, which he later gave to his children. On the other hand, an "Indian Trails" map, produced for the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Connecticut in the 1920s, clearly shows a "Lebanon Path" leading northwest from Norwich, supposedly in 1625; possibly, however, this designation and date are errors of a modern cartographer. In sum, then, a major grant in what became the town of Lebanon, Connecticut, dates to 1676, not 1687, and was given by Joshua, a son of Uncas, to Capt. John Mason, Jr., son-in-law of Rev. James Fitch. One mile wide, six miles long on one side and seven on the other, this strip of land was divided into six parts in 1698/9; three were given to the elderly Rev. James Fitch, and three to his grandson John Mason III.

## NOTES

- [1] F.M. Caulkins, *History of Norwich, Connecticut* (1873), p. 151.
- [2] R.C. Anderson, *Genealogy and Social History: The Early Settlement of Lebanon, Connecticut, as a Case Study* (Thesis, University of Massachusetts, September 1983), p. 5.
- [3] *Norwich Land Records*, 1:54-56.      [4] *Ibid.*, 1:6.
- [5] *Lebanon Land Records*, 1:115. Note: The original records are numbered on the right-hand page only and are the

numbers used here. When these pages were microfilmed, numbers were assigned to both sides; thus, for example, this record appears on p. 233 of the film version.

[6] *Ibid.*

[7] *Ibid.*

*John T. Fitch, a tenth-generation descendant of Rev. James Fitch, recently completed Puritan in the Wilderness: A Biography of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702, and is also author of A Fitch Family History: English Ancestors of the Fitches of Colonial Connecticut (1990), both published by Picton Press. He also contributed "A Genealogical Puzzle," relating to an ancestral Fitch church in Lindsell, Essex, to NEXUS 4(1987):244-46. Interested readers may contact him 4 Canal Park #712, Cambridge, MA 02141.*

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THE DEACONS OF BAILEY CEMETERY (1771-1855)

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GENERATION NO. 3

8. Nancy Clement (2.Thomas', 1.Darius') was born 31 Oct 1815, in Dryden, Tompkins, New York. She married George Albert Smith 1 Feb 1845, in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. He was born 26 Aug 1817, in Potsdam, St. Lawrence, New York.

They had 1 child:

26. F I. Nancy Adella Smith, born 22 Mar 1846, in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, died 17 Apr 1847, in Wister Quarters, Nebraska. DEATH: She died about 3 weeks after her mother, due to the hardships suffered that winter.

George died 1 Sep 1875, in of, Utah. Nancy died 26 Mar 1847, in Wister Quarters, Nebraska.

12. Darius' Salem Clement (2.Thomas', 1.Darius') was born 24 Nov 1834, in Dryden, Tompkins, New York. He married Louisa Kelacy 27 Nov 1859, in Union Fort, Salt Lake, Utah. She died about 9 Aug 1844, in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, the daughter of Estons Kelacy and Abigail Finch.

They had 3 children:

+ 27. M I. Jesse Warren Clement, born 30 Mar 1866, died 13 Mar 1933.  
+ 28. M II. Darius Albert Clement, born 30 Dec 1869, died 19 Jul 1959.  
+ 29. M III. Thomas Alma Clement, born 13 Mar 1879, died 30 Jun 1957.

London died 17 Nov 1919, in Fairview, Sempote, Utah, and was buried 20 Nov 1919, in Fairview, Sempote, Utah. Darius died 23 May 1917, in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, and was buried 25 May 1917, in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona.

NOTES for Darius follow:

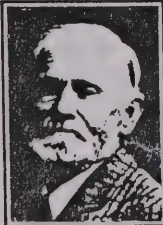
Yousef: When he was 8 years old his father died. In 1844 he left New York and went with his mother and five other children to Adams Co. Illinois, where they lived with his grandfather. In 1846, he went with his mother and family to Council Bluffs, Iowa. There his older brother and mother died leaving him, now twelve-years old, a nine-year old sister, Mary, and a four-year old brother, Thomas, as orphans. He and three children lived with their uncle, Isaac Ferguson. They arrived in Salt Lake City in 1854.

SOURCE: NOTES for Darius follow:  
History. Autobiography of Warren Foote, page 60, Film 0000163.

-----

13. Mary? Irene Clement (2.Thomas', 1.Darius') was born 31 Jul 1837, in Dryden, Tompkins, New York. She married John Franklin Sanderlin 15 Jul 1855, in Union Fort, Salt Lake, UT. He was born 5 Mar 1820, in Montgomery, Illinois, the son of Moses

Darius



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## Quinnequktuqut ... Long River ... Connecticut River

The River Indians wanted help and protection against rival tribes of fierce Mohawks and Pequots.

Their chief Wagincut came to John Winthrop of Mass. and Edward Winslow of Plymouth asking for white men to settle their river valley.

"Plant corn when the leaves of the oak tree were the size of a mouse's ear".

Edward Winslow went to see Connecticut a year later and bought some land from the Indians. At the time the Dutch were laying claim to the land. The Dutch were in New Amsterdam, New York City.

The colonists bought land 1 mile long and 1/3 mile wide to build a fort from the Pequots.

Winslow and Winthrop decided together to establish a trading post. There was a confrontation but no real fighting as they sailed past the Dutch Fort (Yes, the Dutch had built a fort on the river). So they settled up the River from the Dutch Fort of Hope. The Dutch had done this after the Connecticut men had begun to show an interest in the land. At the time of course, these Connecticut men were Massachusetts men as there was no Connecticut.

First settlements were Windsor, Hartford, Wethersfield

Thomas Hooker, a leading Puritan minister was the leading man in the settlement. Hooker was from Chelmsford, Essex County, Eng. which is not far from Braintree.

HOOKEER ... Hooker had suffered for his religious beliefs in the same way many Puritans suffered in England during the reigns of King James and his son, Charles I. He had been a pastor of a Puritan church in London, much loved and admired by his congregation. But authorities of the church of England, the only church that was supposed to exist in England, according to Charles I, had forced Hooker's church to close. The members of the church were so watched and spied upon that many of them sailed overseas to settle in Mass. Bay Colony. Hooker, no longer able to preach, had turned to teaching school. But the church authorities still pursued him and he was summoned to appear before a royal commission to be judged for his nonconforming beliefs. Instead Hooker fled to Holland. Letters from former members of his congregation who had settled in America came to him, urging him to join them. Finally in 1633 (Rev James would have been 11 years old) Hooker decided to do so. Along with some 200 Puritans who had gathered around him in Holland, he sailed for America.

Somehow though, the hardships that Hooker suffered for his faith, did not make him intolerant of those who believed differently than he did. He had a generous attitude toward the world and his fellow man, an attitude that was not shared by many of the rest of the Puritans.





Most Mass. Bay people and the Plymouth people too believed that they had traveled thousands of miles to create a perfect church community. In their view anyone who was not a part of the church was not part of the community and hardly even welcome. Anyone who disagreed with the leaders of the church either over church policy or town policy was liable to be expelled from the community.

The differences between Hooker and the leading Puritans did not show up immediately and they were welcomed by Gov. Winthrop. They were assigned land in Newtown where the other members of Hooker's congregation had settled. It was one of the newest of settlements that had grown up around Boston.

There was rejoicing, of course, as Hooker and his group met again with their friends. And the newcomers went to work clearing the land, erecting shelters, and building a meetinghouse where Hooker could preach to them all.

But before long Hooker could begin to see signs of dissatisfaction among the settlers. In the nearby villages there were men who were displeased at having no voice in how they were governed because they were not church members. Hooker heard their complaints. So since he met frequently with Gov. Winthrop he spoke of the restlessness he felt among the settlers and asked why they could not be given more freedom to speak about matters that affected them all.

Gov. Winthrop had his own defense for the Mass. policy. Meanwhile various men began thinking of the Conn. country to the south and west of Mass. In that wilderness, they could build their own towns and run them as they chose. Requests for permission to move were made to the church council and denied.

In spite of that John Oldham of Watertown set off in 1634 to investigate the Conn. Valley. He returned to Watertown with such a favorable report that he was soon leading a group of Watertown people to Conn where they made the beginnings of the town Wethersfield. During the summer of 1635 several groups left Watertown for Wsfd. That same summer a part of men and women from Dorchester traveled south and west to settle on land near the trading post had set up 2 years before. They founded the town of Windsor.

Thomas Hooker watched these people depart and became more and more sure that the answer to their dissatisfaction in Mass. lay in the same direction. Another request was made to the council and it was finally granted.

Then news came from England that the Dutch were disputing the right to Conn. land. But they were willing to take the risk. No one dreamed that there may be a conflicting English claim on the property.





John Winthrop, Jr., son of the man who had been the previous Mass. governor brought the news. Arriving in Boston after finishing his education in England, he announced that the Conn. country or all land west of the Narragansett River to the Pacific Ocean had been given by royal grant to the Earl of Warwick some years before. This English grant was based on the fact that John Cabot had sailed past the Conn. coast long before Adrian Block had mapped it and so Cabot claimed it for England. The grant to the Earl of Warwick had been recently acquired by a group of British noblemen who were of Puritan faith. Since King Charles's harshness to the Puritans in England was only increasing, these noblemen planned a colony in the Conn. territory which would be a refuge for other titled and wealthy Puritans like themselves.

Two leaders of the project were Lord Say and Sele and Baron Brook. These two men had commissioned young Winthrop to set up a fort at the mouth of the Conn. River and lay out a town there. They had appointed him "Governor of the River Connecticut" for one year.

When the Newtown people heard this they were troubled. They had been willing to risk a dispute with the Dutch, but they were not sure about their chances if they settled on land claimed by noblemen of their own country. A group of them hurried to talk with young John Winthrop. Before long an agreement was worked out. If they settled on the land that was later claimed by Lord Say and Sele and Baron Brook, they would move from it, provided there was proper recompense for the time, effort and money they had invested.

With this worry settled, a small group of Newtown people prepared to leave for Conn. at once. Thomas Hooker and the rest of his congregation planned to follow the next spring. Hooker said a farewell prayer for the advance group. The pioneers set off. Two weeks later they arrived at the Indian Village of Suckiaug. There they halted to make the beginnings of the town that would become Hartford.

Meanwhile young John Winthrop had word that the Dutch were again becoming irritated by English invaders in their territory. He rushed off a small party of men to seize the land at the mouth of the Conn. River and build a fort.

The English arrived just in time. They torn down the Dutch coat of arms from the tree that the Dutch had named Kievit's Hook. After a couple of confrontations mostly verbal, the Dutch retreated. Their ship turned about and went back to New Amsterdam. By Nov. John Winthrop, Jr. and a small group of men arrived at the new fort, which was called Saybrook. With them was Lt. Gardiner, a young civil engineer who had been appointed to survey and lay out a town as well as command the fort. Gardiner's wife was with him. She was expecting her first child, who would be born the next spring. According to legend the baby boy, named David, was the first white child to be born in Connecticut.





Before that cheerful event, though, there was a terrible winter. Bitterly cold weather by mid-November froze the river all the way up to the tiny new settlements of Wethersfield, Windsor, and Hartford. A ship laden with winter supplies for the new settlers at Hartford could not make its way up the river. Snow whirled, and wind howled, and the food ran so low that some of the settlers beat their way down the river to the new fort at Saybrook. But supplies were low at the new fort too. Finally the settlers from Hartford managed to loosen a small ship frozen in the harbor ice and in it they made a difficult trip back to Boston. Another group from Hartford struggled back to Mass. through snow-covered forests. A few stayed on, getting a little corn from the Indians, and otherwise living as the Indians did in the winter, by hunting and eating roots and acorns. But the weather grew milder at last. The brave ones that had held on all winter felt a new surge of hope, and the men and women who had returned to Mass. were ready to try one and all to try the Conn. adventure again, setting forth with increased supplies.

Thomas Hooker and his congregation were also ready to join the migration. During the winter they had turned over their homes to new arrivals from England. Now they bundled clothing and blankets, tools and pots and seeds into packs. Hooker's wife was ill. A litter was made for her of a blanket slung between two poles which were carried by two men.

On a beautiful day in June 1636 they left Newtown, 110 men, women, and children, traveling on foot, driving before them more than a hundred cattle and pigs. There is no record of which trail they followed into the Conn. country. There is only record that they sang psalms as they walked through the woods and now and then shouted their joy at moving at last toward land where they could satisfy their longings for individual dignity.

Hooker and his party traveled two weeks on their march to Conn. Sometimes they spent the nights at the outskirts of an Indian village and shared food with the natives. Sometimes they were all alone in the wilderness. Then at last they arrived at the east bank of the Conn. River. There they halted wondering how to transport what they had across the rushing current. Waginacut, the sachem who had first invited Englishmen to settle in that area, came to their aid. He summoned all the nearby Indians to bring canoes and rafts and to carry the group across.

Ashore on the west side of the river there was a joyous commotion as Hooker and all the men, women and children with him were greeted by those who had come before. There were prayers of thanksgiving and songs of praise. Beyond the worshipping crowd, the great oak on the knoll stood massive and green in the afternoon sun. The town of Hartford had now truly begun.

For many months the settlers had no time to make any plans for the governing of their town, nor was there any real need to do so. A very simple "general court" was set up to make up any simple rules that might be needed. They were still under Massachusetts.





## THE "GREAT SHIPPE" ....

1645 Cromwell was perhaps winning in England. If so then he would be a man of influence and power and would be on their side and a good friend of the New Haven Colony as he had been with Saybrook.

The plan came to them that it might not only help them to safeguard their territory but also to maybe recoup some of their losses from the ill-fated venture on the Deleware. (They had tried to make a settlement on land that the Dutch said was theirs and were attacked, homes burned, and people taken prisoner.)

All the men in the colony with money to spare pooled their resources. They had been building small ships on their own beach for years, but for this venture they wanted a large ship. They ordered one from a shipyard in Rhode Island. The "Great Shippe" was what they called the new vessel in their records. It could hold 150 tons of cargo, and when it arrived at New Haven, the colonists loaded it with every kind of goods that could be profitably traded in England. Chief among them was a man appointed to meet with Oliver Cromwell and ask him for his help in getting the New Haven people a sound and legal English title for the land which they had bought from the Indians and on which they had built their towns.

Everyone was so eager for the mission to be underway that it seemed impossible to wait for good weather. The ship was ready in January of 1647. It was so cold that the harbor had frozen over. Gangs of men had broken the ice to make passage for the ship. Then the sails were raised, the wind filled them, and the ship moved slowly out of the harbor. On the shore, a prayerful crowd watched and waved as the "Great Shippe" grew smaller and smaller and then vanished over the horizon.

Naturally, no one expected news of the ship for some time. People really did not begin to worry until 6 months had passed, and there was no word at all of her and her passengers. Other ships touched briefly at New Haven. Those on board had no news of the "Great Shippe". Hope in New Haven began to turn to fear. Then as still more months passed fear turned to grief. The "Great Shippe" surely had been lost and with all her friends and relatives and goods too that were aboard her.

The rest of the story became a legend in the New Haven Colony. A year and a half passed. It was June of 1648. A great thunderstorm blew up on a hot afternoon and swept over the town, and then on across the sound to Long Island. An hour later, just at sunset, when the air had that strange clarity that often follows a storm, someone gasped at an unbelievable sight. He called the others and pointed. At once a crowd gathered, with everyone growing more excited by the moment.





The "Great Shippe" was out there on the Sound. She was moving swiftly in from the horizon toward the mouth of the harbor, seeming to float on a cloud on the surface of the water. Soon everyone could see every detail clearly, the riggings, the catwalks, the carving on the bow. Joy welled in every heart. Then it was noticed that only one man was on deck. He was leaning on his sword and looking sadly at the group on shore. A hush of awe and fear fell over the crowd. Then, as the ship came very close, everyone saw a fearful shudder pass over her. The masts blew away, the hull capsized. Suddenly the whole vision disappeared in a mist. Then the mist itself was gone.

The stricken people turned to their minister, Rev. Davenport. He gave them the only explanation he could think of for the vision they had seen. God had sent the phantom ship of air to show them how their friends and relatives who had been aboard had perished.



Rev. Hooker lost some of his gentleness when the Indians killed some his own people. He said "Our enemies have slain Thy servants. May our enemies fall like the leaves of the forest". He was speaking to God, of course.

#### Story of the Charter Oak ....

The English had been settled in Conn. for almost 30 years now, time enough for a generation of children to be born, grow up, and start families of their own. And in spite of all the upheavals that had been caused by the Indians, the Dutch, or events in England life had its everyday patterns that were busy, peaceful and more and more civilized. Farmers had been working to such purpose in the rich bottom lands of the Conn. valley so that Conn. had become a granary of New England. Wheat, corn, peas, and beans came from Conn. were shipped to Boston, New York, and New England, often in ships from their own shipyards. Fishing fleets were busy on the Sound bringing in great hauls of fish for drying and exporting. Whaling ships from Conn. towns were ranging farther and farther asea. Exports to England had enabled the colonists to obtain in exchange many more of those tools and furnishings that made life more comfortable. And many men followed the lead of John Winthrop Jr. building mills along rushing streams where falls or dams could provide water power.

In the routine of life there was even time for gaiety now and then. Dancing and card playing were frowned upon in Puritan Connecticut but people gathered at house or barn-raising, at quilting bees, apple harvests and husking bees, and enjoyed gossip, jokes, flirting and laughter. Tobacco and beer were in wide use, so much so that the magistrates were often busy passing laws against abuse. If there was uncertainty about the exact legal state of Connecticut's claims to its territory, it was not something people worried about every day. Every day in most Connecticut towns, a town crier walked up and down the streets, beating a drum to attract attention, and crying out the news. The events he announced might be only local births or deaths or marriages, the date of an auction or cattle sale, the arrival or departure of a ship. But this was the news of everyday life that interested everyone.

About 1669 and 1670 travelers from Massachusetts began bringing news from their colony that was not so welcome. Mass. was worrying about the Indians. The Indian sachem around whom their fears centered was one of the sons of the great chief Massasoit, who had been a good friend of the Pilgrims. He had been so friendly with the English, in fact, that he gave his 2 sons English names. They were Alexander and Phillip. After Massasoit died, Alexander became the chief. Then Alexander died under strange circumstances. His brother Phillip became sachem and gradually Phillip began to believe that the English had poisoned his brother. Outwardly, Phillip and the English were still at peace, renewing friendships every year. But there were signs of growing hostility toward the English among members of Phillip's tribe, rumors that the Indians





wanted revenge for Alexander's death.

Conn. people were bound to be concerned by such news.





## THE CHARTER OAK STORY ...

James had a plan that seemed very logical to him. He would unite all of England's colonies in the northern part of North America under one government. Defense against the Indians, the Dutch, the French too would be easier to handle under such a system. Trade, commerce, taxes, law enforcement would all be simpler. To anyone who had not lived and worked his way through the various differences in faith and personality that had separated the New England colonists into their several territories, nothing about the plan seemed unreasonable. Sir Edmund Andros was appointed the new governor-in-chief of all New England. He was returning this time with authority that was going to be impossible to resist.

Arriving in Boston in December 1686 Andros sent out letters to all the general courts and assemblies of Mass., Rhode Island, and Conn. He requested that their charters, patents or grants be turned over to him at once so that the new central government might be inaugurated at the king's command.

Reluctantly, Mass. and Rhode Island obeyed. But their charters were not hard-won documents of democracy that Conn.'s was. Conn. leaders did not know what to do. They could not refuse the King's command, but whom could they send to plead their cause. John Winthrop who had been so eloquent in earlier years was dead. The governor now was Robert Treat. It seemed to Treat that all Conn. could do was to delay in handing over its charter. Delay, delay, and delay, hoping something would happen to change the situation. Conn. managed to delay for over a year. Then Andros left Boston to visit Hartford in person, accompanied by a troop of 70 soldiers. He arrived in Hartford late in the afternoon of All Hallow's Eve, Oct. 31, 1687. The militia was drawn up before the meeting house to give him a proper military welcome. Gov. Treat waited before the building to escort him in. The colony gov and the royal gov greeted each other in a courteous manner. What happened during the rest of the afternoon has become part of Conn. legend, and there are many versions of the story. Most versions agree on some of the basic facts.

The hour being late, Gov. Andros asked Gov. Treat and the Conn. representatives to join him for dinner at the inn across the green. After dinner it was suggested that Andros and the Conn. men hold their conference in an upstairs room of the inn. Two candlelabra holding 14 candles were brought in for light. The meeting began. Andros spoke quietly but ended in demanding the charter. Gov. Treat spoke about what the charter meant to Conn, but he finally had to produce it. He snipped the deerskin thong that held the rolled parchment. The document half unrolled itself across the table. There was some more talk about how precious it was to Conn. and how much effort, blood and money had gone into achieving it. One of the older representatives, a man named Andrew Leete, who had been ill for some time, got up to speak. He talked with growing emotion. Then suddenly he fell forward across the table, unconscious. As he fell his arms knocked over the candlelabra and all the candles were extinguished. The room was in darkness.





By the time the candles were lighted again, the charter was gone.

According to legend, the charter was handed, under cover of darkness to a young captain in the militia who was standing next to the bay window. This young man, Joseph Wadsworth, then stepped quickly through the open window, onto the stairs outside, and then ran down them and into the night. He evaded the soldiers of Sir Edmund's guard, crossed the little "riveret" and ran through the town and made his way to the house of Samuel Wyllys, one of the original guardians of the charter.

A great oak tree stood in front of Wyllys house. It was the same oak that the Dutch captain Adrian Block had seen when he sailed up the Conn. River in 1614. It was the oak under which the Suckiaug Indians had smoked their peace pipes, the oak that signaled time to plant corn when its leaves were the size of a mouse's ear.

The tree was old now and there was a hollow in it. Captain took off his soldier's tunic, wrapped it around the charter, and thrust the package deep into the hollow of the great oak. Then he ran off into the darkness.

Back at the inn, Sir Edmund did not allow himself any bad temper when it was seen that the charter was gone. He had come to force the Conn. men into a position where they must either surrender their charter or resist the king openly. He had failed in both goals. The charter was gone. The Conn. leaders had not resisted him. An entry was made in the records of the General Courte :

At a General Courte at Hartford, October 31st, 1687, his excellency Sir Edmund Andros, knight and Captain General and Governor of his Majesty's territories and dominions in New England, by order of His Majesty James II, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, the 31st day of October, 1687, took into his hands the government of the colony of Connecticut, it being by His Majesty annexed to Massachusetts and other colonies under His Majesty's government. Finis.

In other words, the Conn. authorities had submitted to the government of Sir Edmond Andros as they were forced to do. But they had not surrendered their charter!

Connecticut was not happy under the rule of Andros. Neither were the other New England Colonies. Andros was probably not the villain that history has painted him. He was simply a hard-working army officer trying to carry out the orders of the king. Fortunately those orders did not last too long.

James, II, who had not been popular to begin with managed within 4 years to outrage his subjects so completely that they forced him to abdicate the throne. His daughter Mary, who was married to William of Orange, was brought back from Holland to rule the country along with her husband. When the news got to the colonies, Andros was clapped into jail. In Hartford, Conn., the authorities quietly began functioning again under the terms of the charter that had never been surrendered.





And the Charter Oak?? It remained until a storm on August 21, 1856, And then it fell. Botanists at the time tried to estimate its age from the rings in the trunk and decided that it was almost a thousand years old. The wood of the fall tree was carefully preserved. Three elaborately carved chairs were made from the wood and are still on exhibit in Connecticut.





# MORE YANKEE THAN PURITAN: JAMES FITCH OF CONNECTICUT

James M. Poteet

MR. FITCH.

North Hadley 1 mo. 27th 1848.

Respected Friend, the Editor of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

From the "Register," Vol. I., page 315, I copy the following; viz.:  
"In the year 1660, the Rev. James Fitch, the first pastor of the church of Saybrook, with the greater part of his church, moved from Saybrook to Norwich. Said Mr. Fitch continued to be pastor of said church at Norwich, until by reason of his age and infirmity he resigned his said office about the year 1696, and in 1702 removed to the town of Lebanon, and soon after died in a good old age."

To add to the information respecting this James Fitch, I will copy an extract from my friend the late John Fitch of Mansfield, Ct., who was many years a judge in that state.

"The Venerable Mr. Fitch of whom you speak is my ancestor, being the fifth generation from him in the line of his 4th son, John, who settled in Windham. He had nine sons and five daughters. One or more of his sons settled in Lebanon, where he retired after the infirmities of age rendered him unable to pursue his public labors, where he died. The old burying-ground in Lebanon received his remains, and contains a monument to his memory.

"The inscription [on said monument] is as follows:— 'In hoc Sepulchro depositæ sunt Reliquiæ, viri vere Reverendi domini JACOBI FITCH; natus fuit apud Bocking in Comitatu Essexiæ in Angliâ, Anno Domini 1622, Decembris 24. Qui postquam linguis et literis optime institutus fuisset, in Nov-Angliâ venit, ætatis 16, et deinde vitam degit Harfordiæ, per septennium sub institutione virorum celeberrimorum domini Hooker et domini Stone. Postea munere pastoralis functus est apud Saybrook, per annos 14. Illinc, cum ecclesiæ, majori parte Norvicem migravit et ibi cæteros vitæ annos transegit in opere evangelico. In senectute, vero præ corporis infirmitate necessario cessabat ab opere publico; tandemque recessit liberis apud Lebanon, ubi, semi-anno fere exacto obdormivit in Jesu, anno 1702, Novembris 18, ætatis suæ 80; vir ingenii acuminis, pondere judicii, prudentiæ, charitate sancta, laboribus, et omnimodo vitæ sanctitate, peritua quoque, et vi concionandi nulli secundus.'

"Those of the name in the vicinity of Windham, Lebanon, Canterbury, Preston, Norwich, and Montville are his descendants. Those in the western part of the state (Connecticut) descended from his brother Thomas, who settled in Norwalk ———."

Thy Friend,  
D. M. LEONARD.

\* In the Rev. Dr. Hall's *History of Norwalk, Ct.*, will be found the best kind of materials for a genealogy of this branch of the Fitch family.—Ed.

The Winthrop brothers dubbed him "Black James" and described him as a leader of "rude fellows of desperate fortune" as well as the author of "open and scandalous villanies."<sup>1</sup> Two of his fellow magistrates labeled him "a great land pirate," worse than Wat Tyler or Robin Hood, and asked the General Assembly to "seriously consider how pernicious" he was to "the rising generation in this colony."<sup>2</sup> Sir Henry Ashurst damned him as "the Cananite . . . in your land."<sup>3</sup> The object of this obloquy from the genteel was James Fitch, politician, land speculator, and disturber of the established order in colonial Connecticut. Far more Yankee than Puritan, Fitch is a clear example of that tortuous transition that historians have sought to describe and locate in time.<sup>4</sup> A model of economic individualism and political competitiveness, a contrast to the traditional virtues of social unity and harmony, Fitch manifests the confusion and disorder that often accompanied the secularization of New England. Beyond this symbolic importance, Fitch was also a significant figure in Connecticut history. Though he ended his life bested by his enemies, for a brief moment he was a bold challenger for power in the colony. His bid for supremacy was so nearly successful, in fact, that it left a folk memory that troubled Connecticut's gentry leaders a half century afterwards.<sup>5</sup>

There was little in Fitch's heritage to point his future course or suggest his ultimate notoriety. Born in Saybrook, Connecticut, on 2 August 1649, he was the son of the Reverend James Fitch. While the clerical father was one of that "second class" of divines described by Cotton Mather as those "whose education for their designed ministry not being finished, yet came over from England . . . and had their education perfected in this country,"<sup>6</sup> an ecclesiastical pedigree carried with it a certain standing in orthodox Connecticut. In 1660 Pastor Fitch led a portion of his Saybrook congrega-

1. "The Winthrop Papers," Massachusetts Historical Society, *Collections*, 5th ser., 8 (1882): 462; *ibid.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 334. Hereafter cited as *Mass. Hist. Soc., Colls.*

2. "Early Letters and Documents Relating to Connecticut, 1643-1709," Connecticut Historical Society, *Collections*, 24 (1932): 170. Hereafter cited as *Conn. Hist. Soc., Colls.*

3. "The Winthrop Papers," *Mass. Hist. Soc., Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 121.

4. For instance, see Richard L. Bushman, *From Puritan to Yankee: Character and Social Order in Connecticut, 1690-1765* (Cambridge, 1967) or Richard S. Dunn, *Puritans and Yankees: The Winthrop Dynasty of New England, 1630-1717* (Princeton, 1962).

5. Roger Wolcott, "A Memoir for the History of Connecticut," *Conn. Hist. Soc., Colls.*, 3 (1895): 329-330.

6. Cotton Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana* (Hartford, 1892), 1:236-237.





tion into the wilderness to settle the town of Norwich; in that frontier community, the Reverend Fitch unknowingly prepared his legacy for his son.<sup>7</sup>

Even in the wilderness, Fitch maintained the Puritan clergy's reputation for scholarship and presumably tutored his son who, while never able to master the most elementary rules of punctuation, later demonstrated a talent for invective prose and even crude poetry.<sup>8</sup> The reputation of the senior Fitch did not rest on his theological writing, however, but on his vigorous missionary work among the Indians of Connecticut, particularly the Mohegans. Having mastered the Indian language, Fitch worked diligently to convert the famous chieftain Uncas and his son Owaneco. For a time the work among "those poor heathen" was so promising that the General Assembly of Connecticut acknowledged a readiness to "encourage Mr. Fitch in the work," and he received funds from the United Commissioners.<sup>9</sup> During King Philip's War, Fitch was particularly useful to the colony, maintaining the loyalty of the Mohegans and accompanying the colony's forces into battle.<sup>10</sup>

The younger Fitch could only profit from this upbringing. Raised on the frontier and in close contact with the Indians, he gained an intimate knowledge of the unsettled lands of eastern Connecticut and learned to manipulate the natives who claimed them. His marriage to Elizabeth Mason, daughter of the family most closely connected with Connecticut's Indians, promised further opportunities. Given both inherited advantages and his own surging ambitions, Fitch rose rapidly in the public affairs of his locality and colony. In 1679 he was elected a Norwich deputy to the General Court. The legislature itself acknowledged his promise by appointing him a magistrate for the town and treasurer of New London County.<sup>11</sup> For the next few years, Fitch was extremely busy in the public affairs of eastern Connecticut, but this did not mean he was neglecting his private interests; it was, in fact, during these years that he laid the founda-

7. See Roscoe C. Fitch, comp., *The Fitch Family in America* (Haverhill, Mass., 1929), 2:38; Francis M. Caulkins, *History of Norwich* (New London, Conn., 1879), 148-151.

8. The senior Fitch published *The First Principles of The Doctrine of Christ* (Boston, 1679), *An Explanation of the Solemn Advice Recommended by the Council in Connecticut Colony* (Boston, 1683) and the first election sermon in the colony to be printed, *An Holy Connection, Or a True Agreement Between Jehovahs Being a Wall of Fire to His People, and the Glory in the Midst Thereof* (Cambridge, 1674). He also engaged in the scholarly disputes that were a part of the Puritan divine's life; see Connecticut Archives, Ecclesiastical Affairs, 1st ser., 1:81, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

9. Uncas was a master at manipulating the colonists and even the determined Fitch finally had to report that the once hopeful convert was "abounding more and more in dances and all manner of heathenism impieties." J. H. Trumbull and C. J. Hoadly, eds., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* (Hartford, 1850-1890), 2:157-158n. Hereafter cited as *Conn. Col. Recs.*

10. Despite his "infermity in all respects," Fitch could not deny the government's plea that "your assistance is so accommodable to the design and to all our officers and soldiers . . . if you may overlook the difficulties and march out again . . . it shall be very acceptable and contentful to us." *Ibid.*, 447, 463.

11. Fitch, *The Fitch Family*, 2:39-40.

tion for his future conflicts.<sup>12</sup> All Connecticut men were preoccupied with land, but Fitch's ambitions would eventually outstrip and dwarf the aspirations of his contemporaries.

The eastern portion of Connecticut was ready ground for a man with land hunger. Titles to the unoccupied portions of the area were hopelessly muddled with overlapping claims and fatally aggravated by the titles of the Mohegan Indians residing in their chieftain Owaneco.<sup>13</sup> In 1680 and again in 1684, Fitch was able to persuade Owaneco to accept him as his guardian and to vest in him title to a great tract of land called the Quinebaug Country.<sup>14</sup> If Fitch could in some manner perfect his possession of this great tract of more than one million acres, he would be the greatest land magnate in New England. As his fellow magistrates later complained, "Fitch . . . hath such a large latitude to spread his wings far and near, he may easily stretch Owaneco's wings over two or three country's more than his own to accommodate his own designs which C. Fitch might easily effect, seeing Owaneco is a person of so flexible a temper, that he will do anything for a bottle of rum. . . ."<sup>15</sup>

In 1680 Fitch was elected to a coveted seat on the Connecticut Council and appeared to be on the verge of becoming a commanding figure in the colony. His knowledge of the eastern lands, influence over the Indians, and vaunting ambition promised to carry him far. There were, however, potential barriers in his way. One irritating problem was the competing claim of the brothers Wait Still and Fitz John Winthrop to the Quinebaug lands. In 1653 the brothers' father, Governor John Winthrop, Jr., had acquired a claim to the land from an Indian chieftain named Allumps.<sup>16</sup> This claim passed to his sons who, while they did little to confirm it, were utterly unwilling to let this holding slip passively from their aristocratic family. The other threat, appearing suddenly at mid-decade, was the plan of the Stuart kings to bring rational order to their New World possessions by consolidation of the independent provinces of New England under a royal governor.<sup>17</sup> The ultimate establishment of the Dominion of New England under Sir Edmund Andros temporarily threatened Fitch's future.

As early as 1681, Edward Randolph's appearance in Boston produced apprehension throughout New England. John Allyn, Connecticut's secre-

12. Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 92, 95.

13. Bushman, *From Puritan to Yankee*, 84-86; Connecticut Archives, Towns and Lands, 1st ser., 3:150.

14. Miss Caulkins is probably correct in her assessment that "after the death of his father-in-law, Deputy Governor John Mason, Major Fitch possessed more sway over the sachems than any other individual, not excepting their other distinguished advocate, his brother-in-law Capt. Samuel Mason." Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 38, 40-41.

15. "Early Letters and Documents," 168.

16. Dunn, *Puritans and Yankees*, 108.

17. For the main outlines of this policy, see Philip S. Haffenden, "The Crown and the Colonial Charter, 1675-1688," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser., 15 (1958): 297-311, 452-466.





tary, made inquiries in Boston and was dismayed to learn that Randolph's coming promised "utter ruin" for the region.<sup>18</sup> In 1683 and again in 1686 *quo warranto* writs were sworn against Connecticut, engendering public distress and contention.<sup>19</sup> At last, on 31 October 1687, the issue was settled when Andros himself appeared in Hartford demanding submission; the following day a reluctant General Court acknowledged defeat and accepted absorption into the Dominion of New England.<sup>20</sup> Surviving records reveal little directly about James Fitch's role during these tense months, but his later actions leave no doubt that he opposed surrender of the colony's charter. He had nothing to gain by such a course. From Boston, Fitz John Winthrop hinted at future Dominion offices for many of the old magistrates, but his rival Fitch was not included in that group.<sup>21</sup> Rather, the Dominion posed a direct threat to his future in land speculation. Although Andros did not interfere with land tenures in Connecticut, the colony expected the worst and the governor-general's activities in Massachusetts Bay kept the fears lively.<sup>22</sup> During the Dominion, then, Fitch awaited the future and the unexpected turns it might bring with an uncharacteristic quietude.

On 4 April 1689 the moment Fitch had been unknowingly awaiting arrived. On that day the news that James II had fled the throne was confirmed in Boston and the Bay's saints overthrew the Dominion. Soon the news crossed the forest to Hartford. Sixty years later Roger Wolcott remembered the reception of this tidings: "I never see a day of rejoicing in Connecticut like this."<sup>23</sup> For many, however, the celebration was tempered by political calculations. Since the mid-1670s Connecticut had been entering a transitional period. Rapid population growth was filling the available lands of the colony, and the government's power to distribute the dwindling lands was altering the political culture of the colony. In the past, the absence of economic and social pressures had allowed the standing order of the colony confidently to base its authority on a general consensus and satisfaction among the voters.<sup>24</sup> At the very time the Dominion

18. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:312.

19. Secretary Allyn pragmatically favored submission as did his friend Fitz John Winthrop, who advised "his thought much better to accept of his Majesty's gracious offer than to stand a trial, which can in no way be advantageous to the interests of your colony. . . . By March, two magistrates joined Allyn in a petition to the General Court, arguing "it is for the advantage of this Court, freely and voluntarily to submit yourself to his Majesty's dispose. . . . We are for answering his Majesty's expectations, by a present submission." "Roger Wolcott's Memoir," 331.

20. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:248.

21. "The Winthrop Papers," *Mass. Hist. Soc., Colls.*, 5th ser., 8 (1882): 302.

22. In anticipation of changes, the General Court, in 1685 and 1686, vested title to town lands in the inhabitants of the townships and distributed many of the colony's unclaimed lands. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:177-178, 228, 235.

23. "Roger Wolcott's Memoir," 331.

24. See Anthony N. B. Garvan, *Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial Connecticut* (New Haven, 1951), 14-16.

fell, such a consensus was no longer so easy to construct. Further, the old magistrates had tarnished an important component of their public image—as protectors of the colony's autonomy—by their acceptance of the Dominion. Gershom Bulkeley later remembered, and charged, "how Sir E. A. was caressed. . . . How brisk and jocular they [the old magistrates] were at that time. . . . What liberal healths some of them . . . drank then."<sup>25</sup>

The fall of the Dominion, then, produced a fluid situation into which an ambitious man might venture and greatly enhance his power. Clearly Fitz John hoped to do just that by discrediting the old magistrates. In April 1689 the old leaders of the colony preferred a policy of inaction while testing the political winds, but Fitch agitated for an immediate meeting of the freemen. Bulkeley noted, "J. F., a justice of the peace, . . . travels from Dan to Beersheba to incite the freemen," and again, "J. F., his coming up to Hartford once and again, early in the spring, to promote an election. . . ."<sup>26</sup> This proved to be the popular course among the voters, and the old magistrates gave way, dispatching a call for deputies from the towns to assemble in a General Court to be held at Hartford on 9 May 1689.<sup>27</sup>

The traditional leaders of the colony were confused, but they recognized the threat. Fitz Winthrop was "obliged to sigh most sincerely for the hurries and ungoverned dispositions among ourselves" and hoped an election might be delayed if the magistrates could "withstand the people."<sup>28</sup> He recognized the unlikelihood of this course, however, and advised Secretary Allyn, "it is time to rouse yourself since we sorrowfully see some busy spirits hackneying themselves up and down to debauch not only the ignorant, but well disposed people. . . ."<sup>29</sup> Allyn hoped Winthrop himself would stand for the governorship since "I know you can do as much towards the preventing of inconveniences and defeating the designs of Col. Fitch and those with him here and elsewhere as any man among us. . . ."<sup>30</sup> He was joined in this proposal by the Reverend Timothy Woodbridge who urged Winthrop to thwart "the preposterous zeal of some factious hot heads whom I fear."<sup>31</sup>

On 8 May a caucus of nervous magistrates met in Hartford and on the next day presented the assembled representatives of the freemen with three alternatives: to restore the pre-Dominion government; to continue the present situation; or to establish a committee of safety.<sup>32</sup> After active de-

25. "Will and Doom, or the Miseries of Connecticut by and under a Usurped and Arbitrary Power . . .," *Conn. Hist. Soc., Colls.*, 3 (1895): 149.

26. *Ibid.*, 151, 154.

27. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:250.

28. "The Winthrop Papers," *Mass. Hist. Soc., Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 498-499.

29. *Ibid.*, 499-500.

30. *Ibid.*, 501.

31. *Ibid.*, 33.

32. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:250.





bate, the first choice was settled upon and a Court of Election was held that restored the old magistrates to office.<sup>33</sup> On the surface this constituted a defeat for Fitch who, while restored to his pre-Dominion seat as an Assistant, had not been able to effect a major change among the magistrates. Presumably, however, he was satisfied that the colony's autonomy was again guaranteed, leaving him room to maneuver for the future. Already he was constructing a firm power base in his home county. John Wheeler of New London complained that Fitch had engrossed dictatorial control of the county, charging "that five of the chief members of this county are related (viz.) Capt. Fitch, Capt. Mason, Lt. Daniel Wintrell, Lt. Bruster and Richard Christophers" and that "the said five with Capt. James Morgan and Marshall Samuel Fosdick who are also in affinity with them have most (if not all) the offices, powers and authority of the moment in town and county."<sup>34</sup>

Fitch's ambitions stretched wider than the boundaries of his own county. He had important contacts among the representatives in the Lower House of the Assembly and used them to create a degree of suspicion about the old magistrates. When the deputies boldly demanded that "in case any occasion . . . in reference to our charter of government" arose, then a special session of the Assembly be called "to consider . . . what is necessary to be done, and do not leave it with the Council," he was enjoying some success.<sup>35</sup> He was also effective in creating an image among the electorate. It was reported to Fitz Winthrop that "he [Fitch] is so expert in the act of flattery that he makes many of the people believe that he is the chief patron of their charter privileges. . . ."<sup>36</sup> He also challenged a rear guard action of Gershom Bulkeley who opposed resumption of charter government; Fitch wrote two pamphlets, *A Plain Short Discourse* and *A Little of the Much*, which justified resumption and offered the harsh advice that the government "screw up the ink-horns, still the tongues, empty the purses, and confine the persons of our objectors."<sup>37</sup>

During the next few years, Fitch was unable to banish the old magis-

33. Two vacancies, caused by deaths in 1688, were filled by the election of Fitz John Winthrop and his close friend Samuel Wyllys to the Board of Assistants.

34. Some idea of the way in which politics in Connecticut could revolve around family groupings may be gained from Wheeler's recital: "as to relation, Capt. Mason's sister married to Capt. Fitch, Capt. Fitch his brother married to Lt. Bruster's daughter, Lt. Bruster's sister married to Lt. Witherell, Lt. Witherell's sister married to Capt. James Morgan, Capt. Morgan's now wife[,] aunt to Richard[,] Christophers and Samuel Fosdeck[,] being own sister to their wives mothers." After this genealogy, the petitioner asked "Whether it doth not seem to be a combination for to engross and monopolize all offices, and consequently the authority into their hands." "The Wyllys Papers," Conn. Hist. Soc., *Colls.*, 21 (1924): 318-319.

35. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:252-253.

36. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc. *Colls.*, 6th ser., 5 (1892): 112.

37. Gershom Bulkeley identified Fitch as "a prime ringleader in the late motions," and charged that he had "scattered two scurrilous libels" in which "if nonsense, notorious falsehood, obloquy and absurdity would do his business, I must confess he hath done it substantially. . . ." "The Miseries of Connecticut," 83-84.

trates from all positions of power, but his own influence grew steadily. He encouraged the Assembly to make contact with Jacob Leisler and was one of the two delegates to visit the New York leader who welcomed their "broderly lofe and kaindness."<sup>38</sup> In the Assembly, he served on committees for every possible function,<sup>39</sup> causing the aristocratic Samuel Wyllys to complain that Fitch had become "the principal Minister of State." Wyllys himself was dropped from the Council and the voters replaced him with one of Fitch's supporters. "Most of our gentlemen," Wyllys wrote his friend Fitz Winthrop, "are secluded both houses of Parliament. Mr. Henry Wolcott and young Mr. Chester are both secluded the House of Commons the last sessions. . . and an eminent cider drinker in the room of one and a person risen out of obscurity in the place of the other." With "public and particular grievances and oppression continued and augmented," Wyllys could only declare that "speedy redress . . . is much desired. . . ."<sup>40</sup> The old magistrates did rouse themselves to send Fitz Winthrop to London as the colony's agent to gain a confirmation of their revolutionary settlement; if he was successful this might repair their tarnished image, but for the moment it simply removed from the scene one of Fitch's most skillful adversaries.<sup>41</sup>

During these years, Fitch's private enterprises also flourished.<sup>42</sup> His opponents complained that he was "exceedingly busy in selling the lands of this colony."<sup>43</sup> In particular, he began settling tenants in the Quinebaug country; from Boston, Wait Winthrop muttered, "I wonder at his confidence," and sought rival tenants. Soon each of the would-be landlords had rival camps—Fitch's tenants at Canterbury and Winthrop's at Plainfield—and a battle ensued with the tenants used as pawns. Wait Winthrop complained to the General Court that Fitch was terrorizing his tenants and legitimizing his outrages as chief judge of the New London county court. Unless "he be lord of your colony, . . ." a furious Winthrop wrote, "I desire . . . the justice of the colony as Englishmen."<sup>44</sup> On one occasion Winthrop complained that Fitch had broken into the house of one of his tenants in an act "termed no better than robbery," and again he charged that Fitch had "threatened to set the Indians" on his retainers. He urged his agent, John Gallup, to do his best to seduce Fitch's tenants away from

38. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 3:467.

39. *Ibid.*, 4:14, 79, 148, 182, 226.

40. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., *Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 31.

41. "Early Letters and Documents," 57-63.

42. One indication of Fitch's busy activity during this period are his frequent moves; in 1697 he identified himself as a resident of Norwich; in 1698 of Peagscomsett; in 1699 of Kent; in 1701 of Plainfield; and in 1703 of Canterbury. Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 137-138.

43. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., *Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 31; Samuel Wyllys complained to Wait Winthrop that "the popularity hath put the government on such that we are falling into the dredges of a democratical anarchy." *Ibid.*, 5 (1892): 38.

44. *Ibid.*, 5th ser., 8 (1882): 519-520.





him.<sup>46</sup> Fitch replied in kind, denouncing Winthrop's "foolish, rash, illegal and unreasonable" claims and threatening "wide mouth Galoup . . . and his hauling and lies."<sup>46</sup> Harsh words, lawsuits, and minor acts of violence engulfed the Quinebaug.

Requiring only additional time, Fitch was slowly undermining his public and private opposition. But time was precisely what he did not possess, for the news arrived in December 1697 that the agent to England, Fitz Winthrop, had arrived in Boston with the colony's charter secured. Assistant Caleb Stanley wrote Winthrop that his arrival had "much quieted the good people, especial in respect of the disturbances and convolutions they were in when your honor went from us,"<sup>47</sup> and the Reverend Gurdon Saltonstall rhapsodized, "the very expectation of your being once more among us puts new life and fresh vigor into our affairs which I think would soon have expired if they had not met with such a revival."<sup>48</sup> The old magistrates recognized that Winthrop's success had burnished their image and restored their credit, providing an opportunity to "dispel and scatter those clouds of darkness which some persons of evil principles . . . have been late endeavoring and contriving."<sup>49</sup>

Emboldened by their agent's success, the old order moved swiftly to secure their advantage. A special session of the General Court was called to heap honors on the agent returned. More important, alterations in the frame of government were in order. In the past the role of justice of the peace had been filled by "commissioners" elected in each county, a system that allowed popular local figures to dilute the authority of the General Court. This was swept away by legislation making the justiceships appointive "during the Court's pleasure." In addition, the structure of the county

45. *Ibid.*, 505, 515; Wait Winthrop wrote his brother in London and urged him to return since "our private affairs want you very much," complaining that "we meet with much trouble from the Norwich men and Fitch about the settlement at Quinebaug." *Ibid.*, 507-508.

46. James Fitch to Wait Winthrop, n.d.; James Fitch to John Gallop, 14 July 1699, Winthrop Manuscripts, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston. Fitch and Gallop were on particularly bad terms. In 1701 Fitch sued Gallop for slander, charging him with "a lying, false and scandalous report"; the suit dragged on through many appeals. See Connecticut Archives, Crimes and Misdemeanors, 1st ser., 1:268; Court Papers, 513, 515, 518. Fitch was particularly involved with Benjamin Palmer, who had originally been his tenant, but had shifted his allegiance to the Winthrops. Wait complained that Fitch "molested" Palmer "contrary to all law and reason" dragging him through the New London county courts where "he seem[ed] to preside" since the juries were Norwich men who "depend on Capt. Fitch his bottom." "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 5th ser., 8 (1882): 517-518. Palmer, for his part, "was in a great passion" and swore to kill Fitch and Marshal John Plumb. See Connecticut Archives, Crimes and Misdemeanors, 1st ser., 1:215, 216; Private Controversies, 1st ser., 4:303, 304, 306; Court Papers, 44-50.

47. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 3 (1889): 28.

48. *Ibid.*, 29.

49. *Ibid.*, 253-254; an address from the General Assembly to Winthrop later explained that the "privileges" of the colony were "as great (if not greater)" than any other colony, "which we may in a good measure acknowledge to be by the pains and indefatigableness of your honor. . . . We have in your honor found a faithful and cordial friend in the public concerns of this people. . . ." *Ibid.*, 41.

courts was modified; no longer would they be conducted by the local assistant, but rather by three justices and a judge appointed by the Assembly. With these steps, Fitch was removed from the New London bench and his local influence diminished. So long as the old magistrates could maintain a bare majority in the Assembly, they could guarantee a "safe" man in Fitch's home county.<sup>50</sup>

The next step was to put Winthrop himself at the head of the government. In January 1698 the Reverend James Pierpont approached the potential candidate, suggesting that his election would "make us a quiet and happy people" and noting that "the good success of your solicitations at home has prepared the people" to support him.<sup>51</sup> The Reverend Timothy Woodbridge expressed similar sentiments, urging Winthrop's presence at the Court of Election and promising, "we shall be glad of your directions for our receiving you as is becoming both your person and the benefit we hope for by your coming."<sup>52</sup> Winthrop was ready to serve, noting that the experience of the past few years had produced "unsafe" government.<sup>53</sup> Again Fitch's opponents were successful; the Reverend Gurdon Saltonstall reported to Winthrop that "the election of this day hath been concluded with the joyful acclamations of all the people that your honor hath this government devolved into your hands."<sup>54</sup>

Although it was not readily apparent at the time, Fitch's bid for power had almost run its course. Not only had his public and private enemy been elected governor, but the voters did not return Fitch to the Council. Two of Winthrop's supporters, John Clarke and Samuel Wyllys, went so far as to present the Assembly a general denunciation of the embattled Fitch. Styling themselves as those "who cannot see cause to acknowledge Capt. James Fitch to be Lord Proprietor of this colony," they asked, "let any man give an example of any one of the king's subjects in Europe or America since the time of William the Conqueror to this day, that ever engrossed so much land as Mr. Fitch has done. . . ." In addition, at the October 1698 session of the Assembly, the newly elected governor persuaded the legislators to effect a division of the Assembly into two houses so that the "magistrates and deputies sit distinct," each possessing a veto over the decisions of the other.<sup>56</sup> With this step, the old magistrates needed only a majority in the Upper House to frustrate future proposals by Fitch's supporters in the more numerous Lower House.<sup>57</sup>

50. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:235-236.

51. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 3 (1889): 267.

52. *Ibid.*, 33.

53. Dunn, *Puritans and Yankees*, 317.

54. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 3 (1889): 34.

55. "Early Letters and Documents," 167-170.

56. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:267.

57. While Winthrop frequently had trouble managing the Lower House, his control of the Upper House was firm; he clearly agreed with Samuel Wyllys that "the best expedient to settle this colony in peace and unity . . . [is] that their Majestys please to declare that persons





If Fitch had suffered a setback in his public career, he was not yet ready to give over his private ambitions. The Winthrop brothers viewed Fitz's election as governor as an opportunity to remedy their "great neglect" of the Quinebaug properties. At the October 1698 Assembly the governor secured the appointment of a commission of partisan assemblymen to survey the disputed area. Fitch countered at the May session; the governor disgustingly reported to his brother, "I see a couple of blades with a petition under the hands of above half the [Quinebaug] inhabitants desiring to have the privileges of a township . . . which was drawn by the old Philistine [Fitch]." Winthrop spoke to the right members of the Assembly, and the petition was ignored, while his own request for incorporation of a plantation at Plainfield was granted.<sup>68</sup> A chastened Fitch was willing to reach some accommodation with the brothers at this point, but his demands were too great, and he was defeated.<sup>69</sup>

The private battle joined, Fitch made a concerted effort to enhance his strength by returning to government. Samuel Wyllys grumbled about his "flattery" of the voters and complained, "thus are the people gulled and deceived by him."<sup>60</sup> In 1700 Fitch regained his seat in the Upper House and began a long campaign to undermine public confidence in the governor and the old magistrates. As the 1702 session drew near, Winthrop lay ill with pleurisy and his brother felt it necessary to come from Boston to monitor the session since he was warned that "by reason of the governor's sundry times absence in the time of the General Court" there was danger that Fitch would again become "dictator" of the colony, a prospect that "increaseth the dissatisfaction of the most prudent sort of men in the colony."<sup>61</sup> The governor's fear of Fitch was sufficient, however, to draw him from his sickbed to scold the legislators, "I perceive the Assembly doth trifle and too long delay justice to my complaints exhibited to this Court against Major Fitch."<sup>62</sup> Fitch replied in kind, accusing Winthrop of countenancing a prohibited trade with Canada, being guilty of "misman-

of mean and low degree be not improved in the chiefest place of civil and military affairs, to gratify some little humor . . . but that persons of good parentage, education, ability and integrity be settled in such offices." "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 3 (1889): 16-17.

58. *Ibid.*, 5th ser., 8 (1882): 359, 532, 546, 557; *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:272; Dunn, *Puritans and Yankees*, 329.

59. Wait Winthrop, the more determined of the brothers, admitted that "it is time to think whether to begin with Fitch about Quinebaug at N. London court; I am apt to think he is inclined to an accommodation; if it could be well brought about, it would save trouble." "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 5 (1892): 87; the brothers were gaining confidence in their cause, however, and when he drove Fitch's tenant Joseph Johnson from his farm, Wait insisted, "if Major Fitch shall again sell my land to any man . . . I shall certainly endeavor to put him out" and warned against "believing that Major Fitch was a lawyer and carried all before him in this government." Connecticut Archives, Private Controversies, 1st ser., 6:180.

60. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 5 (1892): 112.

61. *Ibid.*

62. *Ibid.*; Connecticut Archives, Civil Officers, 1:74.

agement in government," and other charges that "greatly reflect on the governor's honor."<sup>63</sup>

This attack on Winthrop necessarily reflected on the other magistrates, and they gave evidence of their new found confidence. Ruling Fitch's conduct "very erroneous and illegal," the Upper House gave Winthrop a vote of confidence and expressed anger that the attack on him was made by "one of the honorable members of the Council."<sup>64</sup> Thwarted in his direct attack, Fitch was forced to adopt new tactics, gathering a curious assortment of confederates—including Edward Palmes, John and Nicholas Hallum, and some Mohegan Indians—whose only common tie was their opposition to the standing order of the colony. By serving their own purposes, the old magistrates approximately served the public ends, thus depriving Fitch of the material out of which permanent political factions might be formed. He could do no better than manipulate changing coalitions of malcontents.

The Winthrops had never, for instance, lived easily with their brother-in-law Edward Palmes; their dislike became overt when Palmes challenged his administration of their father's estate, charging they had cheated the late wife of her rightful inheritance.<sup>65</sup> In October 1698 he petitioned the General Court to order the brothers to inventory the estate; the Court denied the petition and charged Palmes expenses.<sup>66</sup> Fellow residents of New London in support of Palmes and Fitch were the Hallum brothers, John and Nicholas. In 1689, on the death of their stepfather, John Liveen, the brothers discovered to their amazement that he had left almost his entire estate to "the ministry of New London," appointing Fitz Winthrop and Edward Palmes as executors. The brothers charged that the bequest—which would have benefitted the Reverend Gurdon Saltonstall, Fitz Winthrop's close friend and confidant—was invalid by reason of the testator's insanity, and they secured the compliance of Palmes, who refused to carry out his executor's duty.<sup>67</sup> Through the winter of 1689-1690 this trio and Fitch conferred in New London; in February, Wait Winthrop reported to his brother that "Sir Hude," as he contemptuously referred to Palmes, was in Boston on an unknown errand—one that became clear when Palmes and the Hallums took ship to carry their complaints to London.<sup>68</sup> The old magistrates were again endangered, for appeals to London threatened the charter, and their image as its keepers was the strongest weapon in their arsenal. Samuel Wyllys urged Winthrop to take the greatest care "for the safety of our charter in such carping times."<sup>69</sup>

63. *Ibid.*, 75.

64. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:391; "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 3 (1889): 92; Connecticut Archives, Civil Officers, 1:69.

65. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 3 (1889): 255.

66. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:272.

67. Caulkins, *History of New London*, 222-226.

68. "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., 6th ser., 8 (1882): 531, 540.

69. *Ibid.*, 6th ser., 5 (1892): 51.





When the Privy Council took up Hallum's appeal in March 1702, Connecticut's agent, Sir Henry Ashurst, reported that "they opened up such things . . . that made your cause look very foul." The Council ordered new evidence submitted, and by March 1703 both sides were again gathering affidavits. To bedevil the governor, Fitch managed to preside at the examinations. According to Gurdon Saltonstall, "all I hear he [Fitch] says in his defense is that the case is extraordinary, and I think the same of his proceedings." Again Winthrop's influence in the Assembly prevailed, and that body found Fitch guilty of maladministration and ordered the examining of witnesses redone.<sup>70</sup> While Ashurst did yeoman's work protecting the colony in London, the governor could not do the same for him in Hartford. He reported to the agent that he had not raised the subject of his salary with the Assembly because "Major James Fitch and Capt. Samuel Mason . . . falling in with Major Palmes and Hallum, do all they can to give us all imaginable trouble and destroy our government" and had seized upon the issue of the agency. Winthrop could only hope that in the future "our people will have a better understanding of these persons whose counsels have so misled them."<sup>71</sup>

While Fitch was orchestrating these vexations for his enemies, he also had a hand in a greater crisis. Connecticut claimed title to a great triangle of land in the eastern portion of the colony—about eight hundred square miles in all—by deed from the Mohegan Indians. Portions of the area had been settled for years before the first hint of trouble came, in October 1703, in the form of a complaint from Owaneco, the Mohegan chieftain, claiming the Indians had granted only jurisdiction, and not possession, of the lands to the colony.<sup>72</sup> This claim, which threatened to oust hundreds of families, took on added dimensions when it was learned that Nicholas Hallum was to carry it to London.<sup>73</sup> In July 1704 a royal commission was appointed to investigate the charges; the commission—ultimately boycotted by Connecticut's representatives—found for the Indians, restoring their lands and assessing the colony a bill of costs amounting to £573.<sup>74</sup>

70. *Ibid.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 120, 124; *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:430-431.

71. He also reported that Fitch, Mason, Palmes and Hallum had gone to Rhode Island to secure that colony's seal on papers to be sent to England "to asperse this government." "The Winthrop Papers," *Mass. Hist. Soc. Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 133-134.

72. Connecticut Archives, Indian Records, 1:52, 55, 57, 61; for a history of this involved case see E. Edward Beardsley, "The Mohegan Land Controversy," *New Haven Colonial Historical Society, Papers*, 3 (1882): 209-233.

73. This was a double threat for, as Robert Livingston warned, issues such as this might lead Parliament to begin a general inquiry into the matter of the colony's charter. "The Winthrop Papers," *Mass. Hist. Soc. Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 285-288. The colonial agent, Sir Henry Ashurst, also warned of the delicacy of the times: "The Cananite is in your land, therefore, it requires and concerns you to be exact in the administration of your justice, that your enemies may have nothing to object against you." *Ibid.*, 121.

74. *Ibid.*, 349-354. The hearing at Stonington was a general opportunity for mischief. Robert Lord later testified that he was approached by Nicholas Hallum who "suggested to him that now he had an opportunity to make complaint . . . against this government of wrongs done." Connecticut Archives, Indian Records, 1:63.

Declaring that the Indians had been used as tools of "some few English persons who would engross into their hands all the lands mentioned there," the colony instructed its London agent to fight the decision.<sup>75</sup> By feverish activity, Ashurst was able to secure a reversal of the decision and when a new commission of review issued, he was able to frustrate its operation.<sup>76</sup>

While Winthrop was able to parry the attacks of Fitch and company, the continuous assaults did produce unrest in the colony. As early as 1701, the governor felt it necessary to commit his opening remarks to the Assembly to paper lest he be accused of words "which God knows were never in my heart or mouth," and he pled with the deputies to commit their "utmost endeavor to support the interest of our happy constitution."<sup>77</sup> By 1704 the grumbling was so loud that the governor and Assistants took the unprecedented step of circularizing the freemen, urging them "in the critical juncture of our affairs" to "very carefully attend their nominations and election of members of the General Assembly."<sup>78</sup> The next year, an advisor of the governor insisted that the Mohegan lands affair had seriously weakened the government and argued "if your honor do not exert your authority and push on the cause with the greatest vehemence, it will not succeed."<sup>79</sup> The Winthrops could not suppress their amazement that Fitch was annually elected an Assistant, a "tragi-comedy" in their opinion.<sup>80</sup> Fitch plagued Winthrop to the end; after meeting his last Assembly, the old governor sighed that he was "weary of my life" and reported, "I never found them [the deputies] in a worse temper."<sup>81</sup>

Despite his ability to continually vex his enemies, Fitch was losing control of events and was at last ousted from the Quinebaug lands. He almost outlasted the Winthrops. In 1704 the governor complained to his brother, "I am tired with the trouble and charge of it . . . tis the present time and enjoyments that is best; anything else is not worth a T."<sup>82</sup> The governor was willing, however, to make one last effort. In 1705 he persuaded the Assembly to appoint a committee to settle title to the area. It was a very favorable committee; one member, the Reverend James Noyes, assured

75. "The Winthrop Papers," *Mass. Hist. Soc. Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 306.

76. The testy agent told Governor Winthrop, "I have after six months fatigue come to the end of most of the trouble your affairs have given me. Had I thought I should have had so many difficulties to encounter, so many delays, such great interest made against me, I would not for a thousand pounds have engaged in your affairs." *Ibid.*, 324; also see *ibid.*, 378-380.

77. *Ibid.*, 524-525.

78. *Ibid.*, 271-272.

79. *Ibid.*, 311, 316.

80. The governor's nephew wrote him in 1706, "the freemen of Connecticut certainly intend to act a tragi-comedy this year, to re-elect Black James . . . after all his open and scandalous villainies. The Attorney General told me the other day that we should quickly hear it an article against the charter that they elected such a scandalous fellow into the magistracy." *Ibid.*, 536.

81. *Ibid.*, 286.

82. *Ibid.*, 343; later he chided brother Wait, "conceits to have such faggots in cold weather as the man in the moon carries on his back warms very little." *Ibid.*, 358.





Winthrop of his desire to serve him "with my old brains and bones" and even playfully promised to "make you a *plainfield* for your honor to walk without any *fiches* to entangle your feet."<sup>83</sup> The governor wrote another friend on the committee, the Reverend Timothy Woodbridge, urging him to review the past history of the controversy since "one sees farthest when he stands upon others' shoulders."<sup>84</sup> Fitch railed against the committee, but to no avail.<sup>85</sup> The committee ultimately found defects in both Winthrop and Fitch claims to the disputed area and reported their inability to "put those unhappy differences to a final issue." They did, however, privately suggest to the Winthrops that they resign their claims to the colony and receive in return title to two farms of 1,000 acres each. This was the best issue of the long controversy available to the brothers and they ultimately accepted it.<sup>86</sup>

Left out of the Quinebaug settlement, a disgruntled Fitch retired from public affairs for a period. Although Governor Winthrop died in 1707, another implacable enemy, the Reverend Gurdon Saltonstall, was elected to the governorship, and the aging Fitch seemed tired of the struggle. His legacy continued, however, to plague the government. The inhabitants of Plainfield, caught up in Fitch's tangled titles, plaintively asked, "unto whom shall the oppressed apply themselves?" Revealing their "miserable, deplorable, undone condition" to the Assembly, they begged the legislators to "relieve us."<sup>87</sup> Across the Quinebaug River at Canterbury, the townsmen complained that "some must buy their lands twice and thrice and even more" and still they could not secure clear title.<sup>88</sup> Throughout the eastern portion of the colony, title confusion was "very discouraging and disheartening," producing a situation "almost to subversion of good order and friendly society."<sup>89</sup> Acknowledging that "great and many difficulties arise in the new towns . . . on the east side of Connecticut River which do

83. *Ibid.*, 346.

84. *Ibid.*, 342.

85. Fitch progressively developed something approaching a conspiracy thesis. Initially his complaints were directed toward Winthrop's Quinebaug agent, John Gallop: "your foolish, rash, illegal and unreasonable acting," he charged Gallop, had so damaged him that "should you and all you have and yours to the 5th generation be serviceable as slaves it would as I suppose do a small matter to make satisfaction as to the wrong you have done." James Fitch to Sgt. John Gallop, 14 July 1699, Winthrop MSS., Massachusetts Historical Society. Soon he assigned blame to Winthrop personally, reminding him that "a Connecticut governor hath three superiors, God, the king and the law." James Fitch to Fitz John Winthrop, Dec. 1699, *ibid.* Finally, he imagined the entire government massed against him and offering only "unkindly, unmanly, uncivilly, and unchristianly" treatment. James Fitch to Governor and Council, 23 Aug. 1703. *Ibid.*

86. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 4:535-536; 5:10; "The Winthrop Papers," Mass. Hist. Soc., *Colls.*, 6th ser., 3 (1889): 358.

87. Connecticut Archives, Towns and Lands, 1st ser., 3:169a.

88. They also complained that Fitch and his friends had "swept up all the good land upon Quinebaug with all the other good land wheresoever it lay, and all for a song or trifle, so that nothing was left but poor rocky hills and hungry land." *Ibid.*, 136a, 2751; Richard M. Boyles, *History of Windham County, Connecticut* (New York, 1889), 485.

89. Connecticut Archives, Towns and Lands, 1st ser., 3:141-143.

very much clog and hinder the good settlement of said towns," the Assembly appointed a committee in 1717 to attempt a settlement of the "perplexities," but the committee could only confirm the "lamentable and confused" situation and predict that "the troubles . . . [are] still growing and increasing to the great damage of the whole government."<sup>90</sup>

The committee's concern was readily confirmed by Governor Saltonstall. Dismayed by a government overwhelmed by contention growing out of the land disputes, he pled with the legislature to "expell everything that looks like faction," warning that the "seeds of contention" sown in the legislature would automatically be "propagated through the land" and the "natural end of these things is the ruin of your present constitution."<sup>91</sup> It was at this point that James Fitch made his last appearance on the public stage in Connecticut. Endless lawsuits and title disputes had brought Fitch into financial difficulties, and he began selling land in the Wabbaquasset country, a portion of the Mohegan lands whose title he had been denied by the Assembly.<sup>92</sup> Determined to maintain their policy of regaining control of undisposed lands, the governor and Council met on 19 February 1717 and issued a proclamation "signifying that such proceedings are without the privity of the government" and threatening prosecution of any buyers who purchased title from Fitch.<sup>93</sup> The irascible and hard-pressed Fitch scorned the proclamation, declaring that he "could have taken it to pieces . . . and cut it in as many pieces as the protestant did the Popish wooden god." Basing his claim to the Wabbaquasset country on title by native right, he boldly threatened to "bring this and other things before the King and Council if occasion and necessity requires."<sup>94</sup>

This defiance was vintage Fitch, but he had not taken into account how his influence in the colony had waned. The Council confidently took up the challenge and issued a warrant for the arrest of the "scandalous and seditious" Fitch.<sup>95</sup> Lameness prevented Fitch's arrest, but it did not still his pen. In a condescending letter, he denied the legality of the arrest warrant and promised a full defense of his measures.<sup>96</sup> When the Assembly met in May, Governor Saltonstall opened the session with a bitter speech in which he threatened to resign since "its thought safe to insult the government in the most public and solemn manner as can be, as Major Fitch has lately done," and the Council demanded that Fitch be hauled before them despite his "pretense of lameness."<sup>97</sup> Fitch retained enough support in the

90. Connecticut Archives, Indian Records, 1:84.

91. Connecticut Archives, Civil Officers, 1:163.

92. Fitch was laying out lots and making arrangements for a township north of Tolland. Ellen Larned, *History of Windham County* (Worcester, 1874), 1:150.

93. *Conn. Col. Recs.*, 5:586; Connecticut Archives, Crimes and Misdemeanors, 1st ser., 2:129.

94. *Ibid.*, 130.

95. *Ibid.*, 133a.

96. Despite the pretended burdens of "little experience and so little reading and ability," Fitch again threatened to pursue the case in England if necessary. *Ibid.*, 134.

97. *Ibid.*, Civil Officers, 1:136a.





Lower House for this demand to be rejected; the deputies suggested he be requested to appear before the Superior Court when it sat in New London, a proposal rejected in disgust by the Council.<sup>98</sup> Resolution of the conflict was finally provided by Fitch himself. His land titles as frail as his health, the old rebel wearily admitted that "upon due consideration of matters and things appearing to me now with another face than at the time when I labored under great temptations, [I] do freely confess that I have in so doing acted very indiscreetly and disrespectfully to his honor the Governor, am heartily sorry and condemn myself therefore."<sup>99</sup> Not satisfied to have Fitch "on the stool of repentance," the governor pressed for a £20 fine, but the Lower House insisted the confession was adequate and the farcical episode was ended.<sup>100</sup>

Stripped of any remaining illusions regarding his influence, Fitch retired to Canterbury where he died on 10 November 1727. Whether his last years were spent reliving that brief period when he was a political figure to be reckoned with or in bitter resentment for his failure to attain continuing power is unknown. His career had, however, hastened changes occurring in Connecticut. Fitch had not only provided an example of economic individualism and political competitiveness for others to emulate, but had served also as a catalyst for change. His sale of Indian lands had drawn all those who claimed title by "native right" into the political arena. The ensuing controversy was, the Council bitterly charged, the "ruin of our ancient peace and order."<sup>101</sup> Certainly the "ancient peace" of the government was gone. After 1715 each session of the Assembly saw a protracted and bitter clash between the two houses over the prerogative of appointment of local authorities. In the long contest, the Lower House gained a new sense of self-identity and assertiveness, claiming special rights residing in the "commonality or those that represent the freemen."<sup>102</sup> Ultimately the discontent moved from the legislative halls to the countryside. Despite the government's continuing efforts to unsort and quiet tangled titles, physical conflict was inevitable. In the summer of 1721, irate farmers in Colchester used violence to repel a team of government surveyors sent to the town, and the next year was marked by that "most lamentable and very heinous mutiny" known as the Hartford Riot of 1722.<sup>103</sup> The Puritan commonwealth of Connecticut had disappeared and in its place was a provincial society of Yankees, whose prototype was James Fitch.

98. *Ibid.*, Crimes and Misdemeanors, 1st ser., 2:137, 140.

99. *Ibid.*, 139.

100. *Ibid.*, 138; Journal of the Lower House of Assembly, 12, 13 May 1717, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

101. Connecticut Archives, Towns and Lands, 1st ser., 3:148.

102. *Ibid.*, Civil Officers, 1:323.

103. James Poteet, "Unrest in the 'Land of Steady Habits': The Hartford Riot of 1722," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 119 (1975): 223-232.

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FLOWER.—While compiling certain information for the lately published Baldwin Genealogy Supplement, I made considerable use of a family record written in 1837. I send for the REGISTER a record which does not appear in the Baldwin, in the hope that it may assist some one in his researches.

New Haven, Conn.

DWIGHT E. BOWERS.

From *Private Record of Samuel Baldwin*. 1837.

Joseph Flower of Weathersfield, Conn., b. 1705 or 6; m. Sarah Wright of same town, Oct. 25, 1727, both being 22 years of age. Their children were:

1. *Sarah*, b. Nov. 26, 1728; m. Nathaniel Leonard, and removed to Sheffield, Mass., where she d. Feb. 9, 1767, leaving ch.: i. Huidah; ii. Sarah; iii. Nathaniel, m. — Tibbets, and d. in Sheffield; iv. and v. Mary and Lucy (twins). Lucy m. Samuel Baldwin (see Baldwin Gen. Supp. p. 1129); vi. Abigail. Nathaniel, the father, m. 2d and left ch. Rico and Phebe.
2. *Joseph*, b. March 13, 1730; d. in Springfield.
3. *Ozias*, b. Dec. 22, 1731; d. a violent death in Springfield.
4. *Rebecca*, b. Nov. 13, 1733; m. — Saltinshall of New London.
5. *Ledia*, b. Sept. 9, 1735; m. 1st, — Granger, and 2d, — Palmer. Her dau. Clarissa Granger, m. 1st, — Pierpont, and 2d, Thaddeus Leonard.
6. *Abigail*, b. July 17, 1737; m. Jesse McIntyre, and d. about 1822 in Springfield. Husband d. a year or two before, set. 80.
7. *Lucy*, b. April 12, 1739; m. 1st, — King, and 2d, — Horton; d. in Springfield at her son's, Dwight (?) Horton.
8. *Samuel*, b. Jan. 18, 1742.
9. *Timothy*, b. Oct. 12, 1743.
10. *Etisha*, b. June 10, 1746. } "These two went to the Mississippi, near Natches, and died."
11. *Josiah*, b. April 17, 1748. }







**FITCH** Thomas Fitch, the English progenitor, was born in England about 1590, died in 1645. He inherited an estate near Braintree, Essex county, England. He married, August 8, 1611, Annie Pew. After his death the widow and three sons came to New England, where two sons had already located. Children, mentioned in will: 1. Thomas, came to America in 1638, settled in Norwalk; in 1663 was one of the wealthiest citizens, from whom in three generations each bearing the name of Thomas Fitch, descended Governor Thomas Fitch, who was at the head of the colony of Connecticut from 1754 to 1760. 2. John, of Windsor; left no issue. 3. James, mentioned below. 4. Nathaniel. 5. Jeremy. 6. Samuel, of Hartford. 7. Joseph, settled in Norwalk in 1652; in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1655; of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1660; married Mary, daughter of Rev. Samuel Stone, a founder of Hartford; removed to Windsor. 8. Mary. 9. Anna. 10. Sara. The will of Thomas Fitch, of Bocking, Essex county, England, is dated 11 December, 1632, proved 12 February, 1632 (O. S.).

(II) Rev. James Fitch, immigrant ancestor, son of Thomas Fitch, was born at Bocking, county Essex, England, December 24, 1622. He came to America when only sixteen years old, in a company of thirteen young men, all of whom intended to enter the ministry, and he was placed under the instruction of Messrs. Hooker and Stone at Hartford, where he remained seven years. He married (first) October 18, 1648, Abigail, daughter of Rev. Henry and Dorothy (Sheaffe) Whitfield, the former of whom was minister at Guilford, Connecticut, and the latter a daughter of Dr. Edmond and Joanna Sheaffe, of Crawbrook, Kent, England. She died September 9, 1659, and he married (second), October 1664, Priscilla, daughter of Major John Mason. In 1646 he was ordained pastor of a church formed at Saybrook, and in 1660, after the death of his first wife, he and a part of his church moved to Norwich. He learned the language of the Indians and went among them, teaching them and winning their friendship, even though the Mohegan sachems refused to come to his belief. Large tracts of land were conveyed to them either in trust or as absolute grants: a tract five miles in length and one in breadth, located in the present town of Lebanon, was conveyed by Owaneco to Mr. Fitch, and on this land some of his children settled. He died among them in 1702, aged eighty. He preached the election sermon in 1674, and it is the oldest election sermon of the Connecticut ministry which has been

saved, and perhaps was the first one preached. In addition to his clerical labors, he educated several young men for the ministry; among those who received at least a part of their ministerial training from him being the Rev. Samuel Whiting, of Windsor; Rev. Taylor, of Westfield; Rev. Adams, of New London. Children by first wife: 1. James, born August 2, 1649, settled in Canterbury. 2. Abigail, August, 1650. 3. Elizabeth, January, 1652. 4. Hannah, September, 1653. 5. Samuel, April, 1655, mentioned below. 6. Dorothy, April, 1658. Children by second wife: 7. Daniel, August 16, 1665, made his home in the North Parish of New London. 8. John, January, 1667, settled in Windham. 9. Jeremiah, September, 1670. 10. Jabez, April, 1672, was a minister; lived in Ipswich and Portsmouth. 11. Ann, April, 1675. 12. Nathaniel, 1679. 13. Joseph, 1681. 14. Eleazer, May 14, 1683.

(III) Samuel, son of Rev. James Fitch, was born in April, 1655, died in Preston, 1725. He lived in East Norwich, in what was called Long Society in the town of Preston. He married, November 28, 1678, Mary, born in New London, December 10, 1660, daughter of Benjamin (died September 10, 1710) and Ann (Dart) Brewster, who were married February, 1659; granddaughter of Jonathan (died 1659) and Lucretia (died March, 1679) Brewster; great-granddaughter of Elder William (died April 10, 1644) and Mary Brewster. Children: Mary, born 1679; Samuel, 1681; Hezekiah, 1682; Elizabeth, 1684; Abigail, 1686; Samuel, 1688; Benjamin, 1691; John, 1693; Jabez, 1695; Peletiah, see forward.

(IV) Peletiah, son of Samuel Fitch, was born in Mohegan, 1698, died in Preston, 1750. He married (first) 1723, Elizabeth Haskell, who bore him one child, Abigail, born 1724. Married (second) November 2, 1726, Elizabeth, born December 9, 1706, daughter of Samuel (died 1713) and Mary (Williams) Choate (born December 20, 1669), daughter of Stephen and Sarah (Wise) Williams, granddaughter of John (born 1624) and Anne (born 1637) Choate, and great-granddaughter of Robert and Sarah Choate. Children of Peletiah and Elizabeth (Choate) Fitch: Benjamin, born 1727; Jabez, 1729; Elizabeth, 1732; Stephen, see forward; Walter, 1736; Mary, 1740; Ammi, 1742; Andrew, March 22, 1747.

(V) Stephen, son of Peletiah Fitch, was born in Preston, 1734. He married Sarah —. Children: Asa, see forward; Walter, Clarissa, also another son and daughter.

(VI) Colonel Asa, son of Stephen Fitch,





was born in Bozrah, Connecticut, February 5, 1755, died August 19, 1844. He was a prosperous farmer and a manufacturer of iron at Fitchville, Connecticut. On February 8, 1781, he married Susannah Fitch, a descendant of Samuel Fitch, who died in 1725. She was born in Bozrah, January 4, 1757. Children: Nehemiah H.; Lois F., married Captain George Lee; Clarissa; Asa, born May 6, 1787; Susan, married Captain George Lee, his second wife; Stephen, August 21, 1790; Fanny, married Sherwood Raymond; Douglass, February 18, 1796; William, October 27, 1800, see forward; Clarissa, June 5, 1802, married Major John W. Haughton, October 14, 1824.

(VII) William, son of Colonel Asa Fitch, was born in Bozrah, October 27, 1800. He spent his youth with his father, working on the farm in the summer, and attending the common schools in winter until he was about fifteen years old. He then went to Colchester and attended the Bacon Academy from which he graduated. He was deeply interested in books and study, and taught school several terms before he was twenty years old. He went to France in 1820 or 1821 and engaged in mercantile business there with his brothers, Asa and Douglass, under the firm name of Fitch Brothers & Company. He returned to the United States about 1825 or 1826 and began business with his brothers in New York City, where he remained until 1848, and while there he had charge of the entire correspondence. On account of his failing health, he returned to his native town where he engaged for several years in manufacturing business with his brother Asa. He married, October 14, 1857, Mary E., daughter of Dr. Elias and Mary Ann (Hillhouse) Williams. She was born in Bethlehem, Litchfield county, Connecticut, January 23, 1825, died July 12, 1897. Her father was born in Harwinton, Connecticut, September 16, 1797, son of Rev. Joshua Williams, who graduated from Yale College in 1780, and was a native of Rocky Hill, Connecticut, and for many years was pastor of the Congregational Church in Harwinton. Rev. Joshua Williams' mother was, Mary Webb; Mr. Williams was educated by his father and attended Yale College, and then studied medicine with Dr. Roswell Abernethy, of Harwinton. He attended lectures at the medical schools at New York and New Haven and was licensed to practice in 1822, when he commenced in Bethlehem with his brother-in-law, Dr. Conant Catlin. About 1826 he removed to Troy, New York, and established himself as a druggist, but his health soon failed him and he died of consumption at Claverack, Colum-

bia county, New York, September 28, 1828, aged thirty-one, while travelling between Troy and New York. He married, April 3, 1823, Mary Ann Hillhouse, of Montville, and left one child, Mary E. Williams (see Hillhouse, IV). In 1858 William Fitch settled in Norwich town, and lived there until his death, December 23, 1880. He was a Democrat in politics. He was postmaster of Fitchville for several years, until he moved to Norwich town. A friend wrote of him, after his death, saying: "He was a member of Trinity Church, and was characterized for benevolence among that people. He was a man of generous impulses, and will be missed by many poor families. His was a long and useful life, peacefully closed with a full hope of immortality. He leaves a wife and five daughters to mourn his loss." Children: 1. William Asa, born August 7, 1858, died young. 2. Marion Hillhouse, September 28, 1860; married, April 11, 1882, Elihu G. Loomis, and died March 21, 1907; had five children: Mary Fitch, died young, Ralph Lane, Hubert Hillhouse, Samuel Lane, and William Fitch Loomis. 3. Susan Lee, born March 19, 1863; married William Robert Jewett, born October 13, 1861, son of William and Mary Ann (Whitehead) Jewett, both born in England, and the children of William Robert Jewett are: Edward Whitehead, William Fitch, and Fannie Raymond Jewett. 4. Elizabeth Mason, born August 11, 1865; married, April 29, 1885, William Nelson Wilbur; children: Lawrence Hillhouse, William Fitch, Mary Elizabeth, Harriet Mason, and John Mason Wilbur. 5. Fannie Raymond, born December 22, 1867, died July 21, 1890. 6. Sarah Griswold, December 7, 1871; married Francis Hillhouse, July 14, 1897; children: Mary Fitch, Frances Betts, and Marian Hillhouse.

(The Hillhouse Line).

(I) Abraham Hillhouse lived at Artikelly, Ireland. He was among the signers of an address to King William and Queen Mary on the occasion of the relief of the siege of Londonderry, dated July 29, 1669. He had sons John and James. James was one of the commissioners to treat with Lord Mountjoy in the memorable defense of Derry against the forces of James II. He was mayor of London in 1693.

(II) John, son of Abraham Hillhouse, was of Free Hall, England. He died in 1716, leaving his estate to his son Abraham. His wife died in January, 1717.

(III) Rev. James Hillhouse, son of John Hillhouse, was educated at the famous University of Glasgow in Scotland, and afterwards read divinity under Rev. Mr. Simson





at the same college. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Londonderry in Ireland. He seems to have lived on or near the ancestral home in 1716. Not long after his mother's death he came to New England, probably with other Presbyterian immigrants from the north of Ireland who, in 1719, settled in New Hampshire, where the towns of Derry, Londonderry, and the Londonderry Presbytery still remain as memorials of them. In 1720 he came to Boston, when he published a sermon which he had written at his mother's death, but he does not seem to have preached it. "This work, though entitled a sermon," a historian says, "was more properly a treatise in a volume of more than one hundred and forty pages." Cotton Mather speaks of him as "a valuable minister," and "a worthy, hopeful young minister lately arrived in America." On February 5, 1721-23, Joseph Bradford was chosen at a parish meeting of the North Parish of New London, now Montville, to request Mr. Saltonstall, the governor, to write to Mr. Hillhouse, requesting him to be pastor of the church, and on October 3, 1722, he was installed as pastor. The church was organized only a short time before he came there. He was born about 1687. He married, January 18, 1726, Mary, daughter of Daniel Fitch, one of his parishioners. He was pastor of the church for about sixteen years, and his early death was probably hastened by his many cares and worries. He died December 15, 1740, aged fifty-three, and his wife died October 25, 1768, aged sixty-two. Children: John, born December 14, 1726, died April 9, 1735; William, August 17, 1728; mentioned below; James Abraham, May 12, 1730; Rachel, January 22, 1735.

(IV) Judge William Hillhouse, son of Rev. James Hillhouse, was born August 17, 1728. He married (first), November 1, 1750, Sarah Griswold, born December 2, 1728, daughter of John Griswold, and sister of the first Governor Griswold. He settled on the paternal estate at Montville and lived there all his life. He was a leading patriot in the revolution and prominent in the town. When he was twenty-seven he represented the town in the legislature, and held that position for many terms. In 1785 he was elected an assistant in the upper house, and was also for many years a judge of the county and probate courts. He was a major in the Second Regiment of Cavalry raised by the state for the revolution. When he was eighty, he declined re-election to the council, and retired from active life. He was tall and spare in figure, with a dark complexion and overhanging eyebrows, very simple in his manners and quaint in speech. He

was very dignified and impressive. His wife died March 10, 1777, and he married (second) May 24, 1778, Delia Hosmer. He died January 12, 1816. Children: 1. John Griswold, born August 5, 1751; married Elizabeth Mason, and they had Mary Ann Hillhouse, who married Elias Williams. 2. Mary, April 10, 1753. 3. James, October 20, 1754. 4. David, May 11, 1756. 5. William, September 7, 1757. 6. Rachel, August 17, 1760. 7. Samuel, January 17, 1762. 8. Oliver, November 11, 1764. 9. Thomas, September 24, 1766. 10. Sarah, May 12, 1773, died September 14, 1778.

Three pioneers named  
BLACKMAN Blackman came to Massachusetts Bay Colony from

England before 1640. Rev. Adam Blackman was minister of Scituate, Massachusetts, and afterward of Stratford, Connecticut, where he died March 16, 1665, leaving children, John, Benjamin, Joseph, James, Samuel and Deliverance and several daughters. Rev. Benjamin Blackman settled at Malden, Massachusetts, graduate of Harvard College in 1663; married, April 1, 1675, Sarah Scottow. The third was John, mentioned below. According to tradition they were brothers. The same names occur in each family. According to a tradition mentioned by Elisha Blackman, of Hanover, Pennsylvania, the family was wealthy in England, but the property descended to the elder branch, after the law of the land, and the younger sons came to America. The Blackman family of London and the East Indies bears arms: Ermine three lions rampant within a bordure or. Crest: A griffin ermine. Another Blackman armorial: A demi-Moor in fetters crowned with an eastern coronet. Another, probably very ancient: A demi-griffin vert.

(I) John Blackman, immigrant ancestor of this family, was born in England about 1625, died April 28, 1675, and the inventory of his estate is dated May 28, 1675. He was one of the one hundred and two petitioners to the general court, October 9, 1664, to adhere to their original patent. He was admitted a freeman in 1665. He married (first) about 1650, Mary, daughter of Robert Pond. He married (second) about 1669, Sarah —, who survived him. Children of first wife, born at Dorchester: John, August 10, 1656, married, March 26, 1685, Jane Weeks; Jonathan, January 1, 1658, married, in 1687, Leah —; Sarah, baptized July 17, 1659; Joseph, mentioned below; Mary, baptized October 18, 1663; Benjamin, born December 31, 1665. Children of second wife: Adam, December 9, 1670; Abraham, February 8, 1674-75.





**LATHROP**

The Lathrop family is among the oldest of the colonial families who settled in New England. Members of this family suffered persecution and arrest for expressing and living according to their honest religious convictions and secured immunity from further molestation on their promise to leave the country.

(I) Rev. John Lathrop, the American ancestor of this family, was one of those who suffered in the above mentioned manner, and his first wife died while he was in prison. He was a minister in Egerton, Kent, England, and removed to London in 1624, where he became the pastor of a Congregational church. He and forty-three members of his church were imprisoned by order of the archbishop, April 29, 1632, because they practiced the teachings of the New Testament. Upon promising to leave the country they were released, and Rev. Lathrop came to New England with his family in 1634, and shortly afterward organized a church at Scituate, Massachusetts. He was admitted freeman of Plymouth Colony, 1636-37, and two years later removed with the larger part of the membership of his church to Barnstable. In Pope's "Pioneers of Massachusetts," we find: "He married a second wife whose name is not on our records, who came here with him, joined the church, June 14, 1635, and survived him." He was a man of great piety and energy, and did much to further the secular as well as the spiritual welfare of the colony. Children: Jane, Barbara, Thomas, Sarah, Samuel, see forward, Joseph, John, Benjamin, Barnabas, Abigail, Bathshua, and two who died in infancy.

(II) Samuel, son of Rev. John Lathrop, was born in England and came to Scituate with his father in 1634. With his father he removed to Barnstable, then he removed to Boston, where he combined the occupation of house-building with that of farming on an extensive scale. Subsequently he returned to Barnstable, in 1648 removed to Pequot (New London), Connecticut, and in the latter place was one of the judges of the local court organized in 1649. He located in Norwich in 1668, where he for a time held the offices of constable and townsman, and died in 1700. He married (first) in Barnstable, November 28, 1641, Elizabeth Scutler, who received her dismissal from the church in Boston, November 10, 1644, in order to join that in Barnstable. Children: John, baptized December 7, 1645; Elizabeth, born March, 1648; Samuel, March, 1650; Sarah, 1655; Martha, January, 1657; Israel, see forward; Joseph, October, 1661; Abigail, May, 1665; Anne, August 7, 1667. Samuel Lathrop married (second), 1690,

Abigail, born January 29, 1632, died 1734, daughter of Deacon John Doane, of Plymouth. Upon the occasion of her one hundredth birthday, at which time she retained in a large measure her youthful intelligence and good spirits, a great number of people assembled at her house, and the pastor of her church preached a sermon.

(III) Israel, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Scudder) Lathrop, was born in October, 1659, died March 28, 1733. He settled in Norwich, where he acquired considerable wealth, and had a number of sons who were also thrifty and enterprising. He married, April 8, 1686, Rebecca, who died August 22, 1737, daughter of Thomas Bliss, of Saybrook and Norwich. Children: Israel, born February 1, 1687; William, September 20, 1688; John, October 2, 1690; Samuel, see forward; Rebecca, born April 20, 1695; Mary, November 15, 1696; Martha, twin of Mary; Benjamin, born July 21, 1699; Ebenezer, February 7, 1702-03; Jabez, January 11, 1706-07.

(IV) Samuel (2), son of Israel and Rebecca (Bliss) Lathrop, was born in Norwich, July 12, 1692, and resided in Bozrah. He married, June 26, 1712, Elizabeth Waterman. Children: Elisha, born July 13, 1713; Samuel, January 12, 1715, according to the Franklin church records.

(V) Captain Elisha, son of Samuel (2) and Elizabeth (Waterman) Lathrop, was born July 13, 1713, and was killed at Lebanon by the falling of a tree, July 2, 1787. At first he settled in Bozrah, then removed to Lebanon, New Hampshire, and was a highly esteemed citizen in both towns. He took an active interest in all military affairs. He married (first), January 31, 1732, Margaret Sluman, who died October 10, 1742. Children: Elias, born October 28, 1732; Elijah, April 8, 1735; Lebbeus, see forward. He married (second), January 23, 1743, Hannah, who died in Hanover, New Hampshire, January 16, 1807, daughter of Captain John and Hannah (Denison) Hough, natives of New London. Children, all born in Norwich, Connecticut: Elijah, October 20, 1743; Elizabeth, November 20, 1744; Hannah, March 22, 1747; George, January 21, 1749; Joshua, April 30, 1753; Azariah, 1754; Denison, July 21, 1755; Samuel, 1756; Margaret, July 2, 1758; Elisha, April 15, 1760; William, June 4, 1763; Sarah, April 27, 1765; Anna, January 17, 1766.

(VI) Lebbeus, son of Captain Elisha and Margaret (Sluman) Lathrop, was born in Norwich, Connecticut, January 3, 1739, and died in Bozrah, Connecticut. He married in the last mentioned town, and spent his life



there. Children: Polly; Lebbeus, see forward, and probably one more.

(VII) **Lebbeus** (2), son of **Lebbeus** (1) **Lathrop**, was born in Bozrah, 1780, died in Lebanon, January 25, 1866. He was actively engaged in farming, in which he was eminently successful, settled in Bozrah, but later removed to Lebanon. He married **Lucretia**, born April 29, 1781, daughter of **William** and **Joanna** (Stebbins) **Maples**. Children: **Mary**, born 1805; **Caroline**, August 6, 1807; **Elisha**, October 23, 1808; **Harvey**, see forward; **Harriet**, 1814; **Leonard**; **Henry**, born in Montville; **Erastus**.

(VIII) **Harvey**, son of **Lebbeus** (2) and **Lucretia** (Maples) **Lathrop**, was born in Bozrah, Connecticut, October 23, 1808, died in New London, Connecticut, January 10, 1879. He was engaged in farming in Lebanon for many years after his marriage, then resided in Greenville for a time, where he was occupied as a teamster, and upon his return to Lebanon, in addition to cultivating his farm, he was extensively engaged in the lumber and timber trade. His farm was considered one of the finest in the town, and when his sons were grown up and had left the homestead he sold it and removed to New London, built a commodious residence there, and spent the remainder of his days in that town. While not in any sense a politician or desirous of holding public office, Mr. **Lathrop** was a staunch supporter of Whig principles, and later joined the Republican party. He and his wife were members of the Goshen Congregational Church, and are buried in Yantic cemetery. He stood high in the estimation of his fellow townsmen, and was very charitably inclined. He married, January, 1831, **Octavia**, born in 1812, died October 26, 1875, daughter of **Deacon Oliver Woodworth**. Children: 1. **Albert H.**, born November 24, 1831, died in East Hartford, December 5, 1902. He was engaged in the livery business at East Hartford, and filled a number of public offices in that town. He married (first) **Jane Hale**, of Glastonbury; (second) **Harriet Hubbell**, of the same town; (third) **Nancy Perkins**, of Bozrah, who survived him. 2. **Charles W.**, born December 31, 1833, died March, 1902. He was in the trucking business in East Hartford for about thirty-five years, and at his death left a considerable fortune. He served in Company A, Twenty-fifth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, during the civil war, and for a number of years was a member of the board of selectmen of East Hartford. He married **Harriet E. Bliss**, and the only surviving child is **Julia**, who married **Henry S. Camp**, of Norwich. 3. **Harriet L.**, born April 10, 1836, died in Norwich,

November 20, 1900. She married (first) **Richard Palmer**, of Colchester, (second) **Captain William Smith**. 4. **Henrietta C.**, born June 23, 1838, died in Norwich, September, 1895. She married **Charles D. Browning**. 5. **Edwin Harvey**, see forward. 6. **Oliver W.**, born September 26, 1841, was killed at Antietam, September 20, 1862, and his remains were brought to Norwich and interred in Yantic cemetery. He enlisted in the Eighth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. 7. **Fannie M.**, born December 28, 1843, now resides in Norwich. She married (first) **William S. Standish**, of Lebanon, deceased, (second) **Walter G. Kingsley**, also deceased. 8. **Arthur Douglas**, born February 25, 1846. He was in business with his brother, **John B.**, and later for himself, and in 1894 added a coal business to the trucking enterprise, and both are in a very flourishing condition. He is a director of the Uncas National Bank. He married, November 30, 1870, in Waterford, Connecticut, **Belle E.**, daughter of **Captain John** and **Nancy** (Chapman) **Bolles**, the former a sea captain who died in Waterford. Children: **Arthur Harvey**, born September 13, 1871, is now associated with his father in business; **Charles Bolles**, born March 3, 1873, died January 3, 1893; **Lizzie Belle**, born March 30, 1885. 9. **John Baldwin**, born March 24, 1848. For a number of years he was engaged in the trucking business with his brothers, then became interested in the coal business, supplying a number of mills with all their fuel. He is the president of and a large stockholder in the Uncas Dye Wood & Extract Company. He is a member of the Methodist church, a Free Mason and a Republican. He married (first) January 1, 1873, **Alice M.**, daughter of **Norman B. Church**, of Montville, and they had two children, of whom the younger died in infancy; the other, **Norman C.**, is in business with his father, and married, May 23, 1897, **Lulu Perry**, of Waterford, and has **Frederick B.**, born January 9, 1899. Mr. **Lathrop** married (second) October 14, 1887, **Mary B.**, daughter of **Carmichael Robertson**. He married (third) April 29, 1891, **Addie L. Church**, a sister of his first wife. There were no children by the second and third marriages. He died April 28, 1909. 10. **Frederick W.**, born August 16, 1850, died August 24, 1883. He was engaged in the teaming business in Norwich, and married **Abby Chester**.

(IX) **Edwin Harvey**, son of **Harvey** and **Octavia** (Woodworth) **Lathrop**, was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, February 26, 1840, died while on a visit near Syracuse, New York, August 24, 1894, and his remains were buried in Yantic cemetery. He was reared on the home





farm and instructed in its cultivation until 1860, when he went to Hartford and found employment in the trucking business. While there he enlisted, August, 1862, in Company K, Twenty-fifth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, was in the expedition of General Nathaniel P. Banks, in Louisiana, and was a participant in the siege and surrender of Port Hudson. With his regiment he was mustered out, August, 1863, and for a time remained at the home farm in Lebanon. He came to Norwich in November, of the same year, and accepted a clerkship with C. D. Browning, at Greenville, later attending the Springfield Business College, Massachusetts, and then returned to Greenville, where he was manager of an ice company for some time. He then went to Waterford and engaged in the trucking business, returning to Greenville, where he associated himself with his brother Frederick W. in the same line of business, under the firm name of Lathrop Brothers. This partnership continued until the death of Frederick W., when Mr. Lathrop conducted the business alone until his death. Mr. Lathrop was a very thorough man of business, and owed the considerable fortune he amassed entirely to his own efforts. He never aspired to the holding of public office, but was a staunch supporter of the Republican party. His religious affiliations were with the Congregational church. He married, November 4, 1898, Lydia D., born in Norwich, daughter of James and Mary (Dyer) Houston, granddaughter of Eliphalet and Lydia (Denison) Dyer, and a direct descendant of Colonel Thomas Dyer, of Windham. James Houston, father of Mrs. Lathrop, was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, and settled in Greenville, where he was engaged in the dye business until his death, July 17, 1890. Children: 1. James Houston, was born in Norwich, November 14, 1869. He was graduated from the Free Academy in Norwich in 1888, and then spent two years at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. He became associated with his father in the trucking business, continuing it after the death of the latter until September, 1902, when it was sold. He was one of the incorporators of the Scott & Clark Company in November, 1902, and is now secretary of that corporation. They build wagons and do all kinds of repair work. He is a Republican, and in June, 1900, was elected a member of the common council of Norwich and served two years; he represented Norwich in the legislature in 1901, serving as member and clerk of the committee on constitutional amendments. He is a member of St. James Lodge No. 23, Free and Accepted Masons; General Burnside

Council, American Mechanics; charter member of Norwich Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He married, March 21, 1895, Helen Louise, born in Norwich, Connecticut, daughter of Timothy Parker, who lives in Wauregan. Children: Timothy Parker, born February 1, 1896; Edwin Houston, August 11, 1897; Lydia Moseley, August 16, 1901. 2. Ella May, born March 21, 1873; married William L. Clark, of Norwich, a member of the firm of Scott & Clark, whose place of business is located on North Main street, Norwich.

(IV) Israel (2) Lathrop or Lothrop, son of Israel (1) Lathrop or Lothrop (q. v.), was born in Norwich, February 1, 1687. He married (first) June 20, 1710, Mary Fellows, whose name appears on the roll of the West Farms church as early as 1721. He married (second) June 9, 1747, Mrs. Sarah Tuttle. He settled on the eastern declivity of Blue Hill, in the southwest part of the present town of Franklin, Connecticut. He was prominent in public life, both civil and military. His will, dated March 22, 1758, mentioned his wife Sarah, his deceased son Israel's three daughters, Ann, Lois and Ednah, his daughter Mary Birchard, daughter Catharine Hackly, youngest daughter Prudence, and his sons, Jedidiah, Simeon and Ezekiel. Children, born in Norwich: Israel, born March 19, 1710-11; Ephraim, January 23, 1713-14; Mary, September 3, 1715; Jedidiah, January 4, 1718; Catharine, August 11, 1720; Simeon, January 15, 1722-23, mentioned below; Ezekiel, September 5, 1724; Prudence, March 16, 1727-28.

(V) Deacon Simeon Lathrop, son of Israel (2) Lathrop, was born in Norwich, January 15, 1722-23. He married, January 11, 1749, Hannah, daughter of Benjamin and Lydia (Hazen) Abel, of Norwich, and they settled in Bozrah where he was a deacon of the Congregational church. His wife died September 17, 1802. His will, dated Bozrah, February 17, 1804, mentioned his grandsons, Giles and Simon Lathrop, sons of his son Simeon; granddaughter Hannah; sons Roger, Oliver and Zabdiel; daughter Hannah, wife of Christopher Calkins; daughter Eunice, wife of Stephen Woodworth; daughter Lydia, wife of John Fish, and Sarah Lathrop. Children, born in Bozrah: Hannah, born August 20, 1749; Eunice, August 17, 1751; Simeon, August 4, 1753; Roger, December 3, 1754; Oliver, September 9, 1756; Lydia, September 2, 1758; Sarah, September 22, 1760; Zabdiel, November 30, 1762; Andrew, mentioned below.

(VI) Andrew, son of Deacon Simeon Lath-





rep. was born in Bozrah, October 26, 1764. He married, very likely, (first) January 22, 1789, Lucretia Smith, of Franklin, who died in Bozrah, October 9, 1801. He married (second), May 30, 1802, Zerviah Polley, who died about 1840. He died April 21, 1843. Children, born in Bozrah; Dice, December 3, 1789; Philena, April 10, 1791; Simeon, November 25, 1792, mentioned below; Apama, July 25, 1794; Azariah, February 25, 1796; Lucy, March 8, 1798, died when about twenty years old; Eunice, June 14, 1799.

(VII) Simeon (2), son of Andrew Lathrop, was born in Bozrah, November 25, 1792. He married (first), March 7, 1814, Abigail, daughter of William Ryder, and settled on Blue Hill in Bozrah, where she died August 29, 1817. He married (second) December 20, 1820, Phebe, daughter of William S. Peckham, of Franklin, where she was born in 1800. She died August 11, 1847, and in 1873 he was still living on the old homestead on Blue Hill, in the northwest part of Bozrah. Children, born in Bozrah, of first wife: Andrew, born August 23, 1815, died March 7, 1816; William, April 17, 1817; of second wife: Andrew, March 19, 1822; Lucy, May 22, 1823; Jabez Smith, May 28, 1824, mentioned below; Alanson Peckham, July 21, 1826; Jane B., October 25, 1828; David Austin, April 23, 1832; Lydia Zerviah, April 23, 1832; Anna Hazeltine, May 20, 1834.

(VIII) Jabez Smith, son of Simeon (2) Lathrop, was born in Bozrah, May 28, 1824, died in Norwich, July 28, 1903. He was educated in the public schools, and after following the sea for a few years devoted himself to the profession of school teaching for a period of forty years in Norwich and New London, Connecticut. He was a prominent citizen of Norwich and held many offices of trust and honor. He was selectman many years, county treasurer and represented his town in the general assembly of the state. He was president of the board of trustees of the Boys Reform School at Meriden. He was a prominent member of the Congregational church of Norwich Town. In politics he was a Republican. He married, December 4, 1849, Julia Roxanna, born October 11, 1828, daughter of Elijah James Backus and granddaughter of Asa Backus. Children: 1. Helen Marshall, a teacher in the Broadway public school, Norwich. 2. Joseph Backus, married Alfarretta Blankner, of Columbus; children: Julia, Helen, who is a teacher of music in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands; Joseph Backus was a bookkeeper for the firm of Brown, Hinman & Company, Columbus, Ohio, for twenty years; died there at the age of thirty-eight

years. 3. Julia Smith, married Walter H. Potter of Norwich; child, Ruth Potter. 4. Caroline Bloomer, died young. 5. Alanson Peckham, member of the firm of Emerson, McMillan & Company, bankers, New York City; president of the American Light and Traction Company of New York; married Ella Farquhar; children: Grayson and Gertrude. 6. Gertrude, married Alonzo M. Luther, of Norwich; children: Elizabeth Lathrop, Luther and Philip Tilden Luther.

Mrs. George Greenman, GREENMAN widow of Hon. George Greenman, is a descendant of one of the oldest of the colonial families of New England (see Loring line).

Hon. George Greenman was a descendant on both sides of his family from colonial families of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

(I) James Greenman, shortly after his marriage, removed from Griswold to Norwich, and was one of the oldest residents of Laurel Hill. He was engaged in the grain business, was one of the firm which erected the "Elevator" building, and for more than twenty years was a prominent factor in the business world of Norwich. He and his wife were devout members of the Broadway Congregational Church. He died in Norwich in 1870, and was buried in Yantic cemetery. He married, in Griswold, March 21, 1836, Rev. S. D. Jewett officiating, Sarah L. Morse, born in Griswold, January 5, 1814, died in Norwich after an illness of more than ten years, May 26, 1893. She was a woman of unusual intelligence and kindness of heart, always thoughtful of the comfort of others and ready to make any sacrifice for those she loved. Her charities were widespread and her death was deeply and sincerely regretted. Children: Dwight, born October 16, 1837; Sarah Morse, born May 23, 1840, became the first wife of Judge Carter, and is now deceased; William, died in 1874; George, see forward; Lydia, died in infancy; Mary, died at the age of twenty-one years. Mr. Morse, father of Mrs. Greenman, was the owner of a large farm, and possessed of many fine qualities, which have been transmitted to his descendants.

(II) Hon. George, son of James and Sarah L. (Morse) Greenman, was born in Griswold, Connecticut, January 27, 1843, died July 25, 1908. His preparatory education was received in the public schools, and this was supplemented by a course at the Norwich Free Academy. He was but nineteen years of age when he enlisted, August 11, 1862, as a private in







Had the original idea  
that this family came down  
from Rev. James Fitch it might have  
been possible to have been a descendant of  
Hon. Bradford However this has proven to be  
untrue. Some in Rev. James line were.

which means you are also not  
Related to Gov. Bradford, as least not this line

## DESCENDANTS OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD

Compiled by Ruth Gardiner (Mrs. Francis Hall) under the  
Auspices of the Bradford Family Compact, Volume 1, published 1951

Governor William Bradford was baptized March 19, 1539/90 at  
Austerfield, Yorkshire County. He died May 19, 1657 at Plymouth, Mass.

Mar. 1. Dorothea May, December 9, 1613 at Amsterdam, Holland.

She was born March 19, 1596 in Wisbach, Cambridge County.

Died by accidental drowning December 9, 1620 at Cape Cod.

Mar. 2. Alice Carpenter, baptized August 3, 1590 at Wrentham  
Somersetshire, England.

She was married shortly after the arrival of the "Ann" in  
July 1623. Died March 26, 1670 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Major William Bradford, son of Governor Bradford.

B. June 17, 1624 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

D. February 20, 1703/4 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

M. Alice Richards about 1650 (close to April 23, 1650)

She was born June 16, 1617 at Weymouth, Massachusetts. Had 5 children.

D. December 12, 1671 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Alice Bradford, daughter of Major William Bradford and Alice Richards.

B. in 1659 at Plymouth, Massachusetts

D. March 10, 1745 at Canterbury, Connecticut.

M. 1. Reverend William Adams, March 28, 1680. He was born March 23, 1680.

He died August 17, 1695 at Dedham, Massachusetts.

2. Major James Fitch, born August 2, 1647/9 at Saybrook, Connecticut.

Died November 10, 1727 at Canterbury, Connecticut.

Ebenezer Fitch, son of Alice Bradford and Major James Fitch.

B. January 10, 1699 at Norwich, Connecticut.

D. November 20, 1724 at Windsor, Connecticut.

M. Bridget Brown on September 13, 1712 at Canterbury, Connecticut.

Alice Fitch, daughter of Ebenezer Fitch & Bridget Brown.

B. January 30, 1713

D. 1796

M. January 25, 1730/1 to Lt. John Fitch, son of Cap't. John Fitch  
and Elizabeth Waterman and Reverend James Fitch's eldest son.  
Lt. John Fitch, born March 13, 1705, died February 19, 1760.

John Fitch, son of Alice and Lt. John Fitch

B. July 14, 1732 at Windham, Connecticut.

D. June 26, 1755 at Canterbury, Connecticut.

M. November 7, 1753 to Mercy Lathrop, who was born October 1, 1736  
at Tolland, Connecticut.

John Fitch

B. January 11, 1756 at Canterbury, Connecticut (posthumous son)

D. 1816 at Ridgefield, Connecticut

M. Second wife named Mary-----.

Nathaniel Fitch, son of John Fitch.

B. February 12, 1781, at Canterbury, Connecticut (Windham)

D. September 14, 1839 Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania

M. Sarah Keeler on August 29, 1801. She was born in Ridgefield,  
Connecticut, June 23, 1785 and died Feb. 6, 1856

Is buried in Fitch's Cemetery Falls Township, Pa.

Nathiel son of John Fitch<sup>4</sup>, John Fitch<sup>3</sup>, Nat'l Fitch<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>





Nathaniel Fitch, Jr.

B. July 9, 1806 at Tunkhannock, Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pa.

D. January 1, 1877 Buried in Perry Cemetery near Huntertown, Indiana

M. June 4, 1840 to Sarah Elizabeth DeLong. She was born May 29, 1818  
and died September 2, 1908 and is buried in  
Perry Cemetery, near Huntertown, Indiana.

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong  
Fitch.

B. March 29, 1855 near Huntertown, Indiana

D. August 4, 1958 at Parkersburg, West Virginia at her son's home.

M. December 28, 1881 at her home to Irvin Franklin Stratton  
who was born April 20, 1848 at Lagro, Indiana.  
He died April 2, 1902 and is buried in Lindenwood  
Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Indiana as is Sarah Elizabeth  
Fitch Stratton.

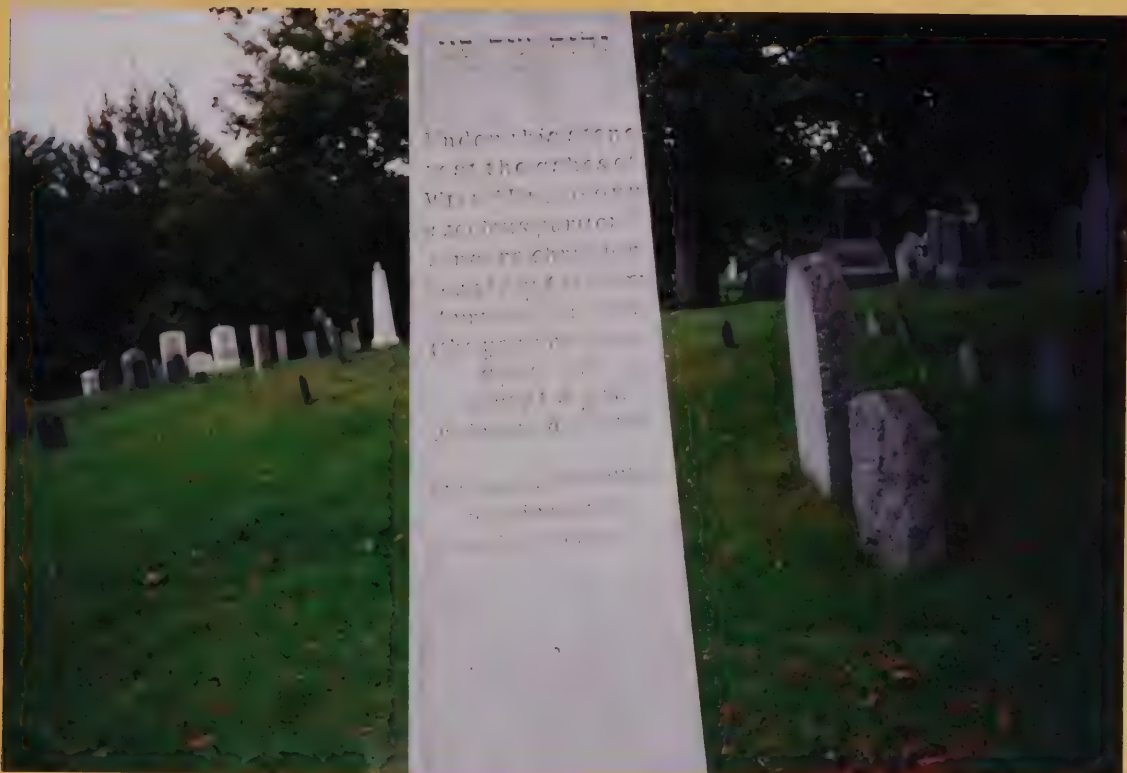




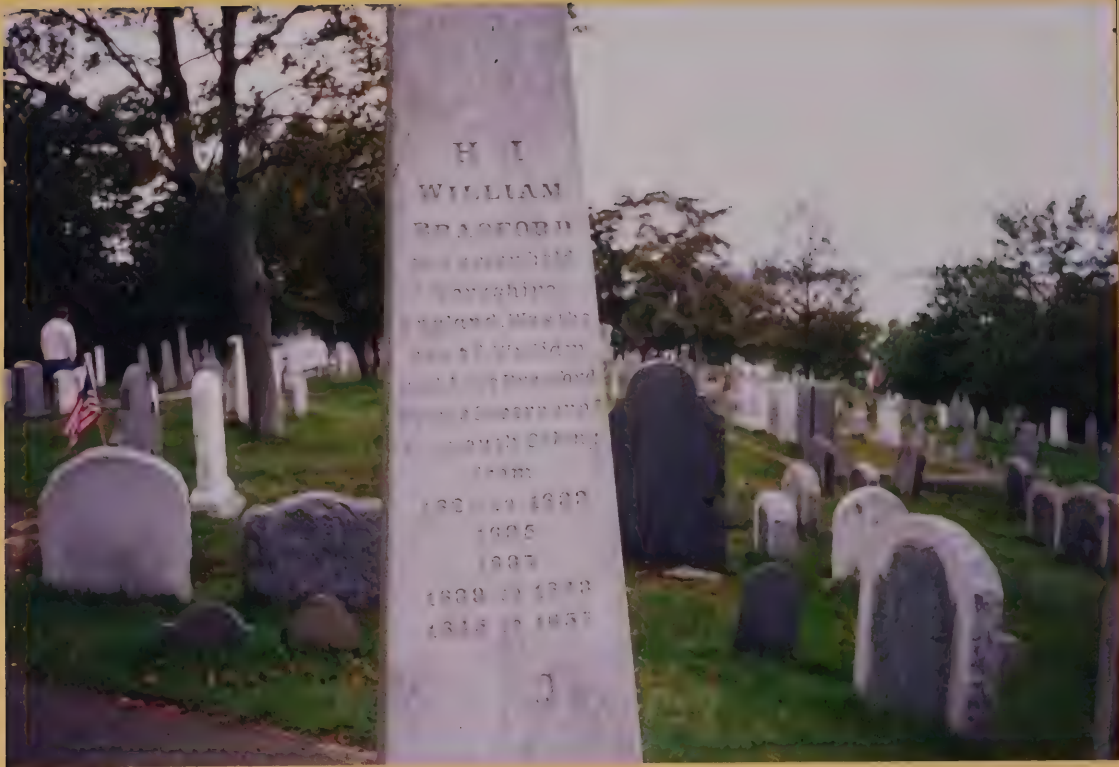
Gravestone  
and marker  
in the Old Hilltop Cemetary  
in Plymouth, Mass.

of  
Gov. William Bradford  
one of 3 original  
Pilgrims buried here.

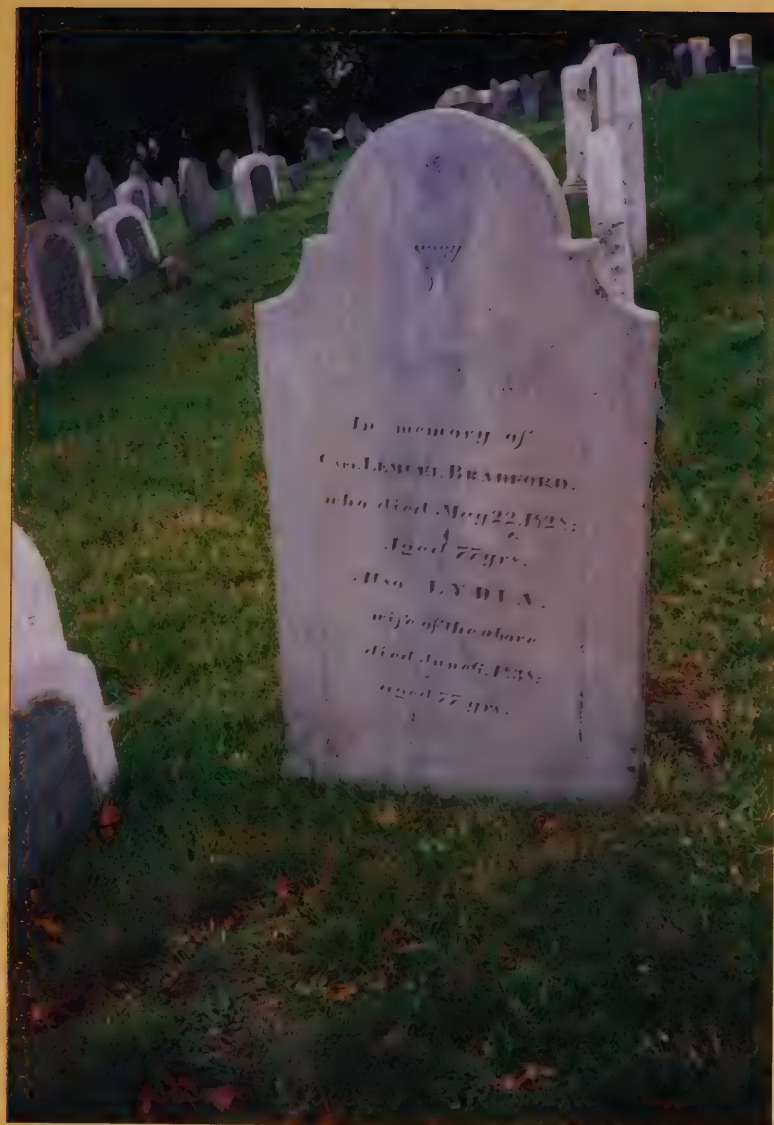
This is really up a hill!



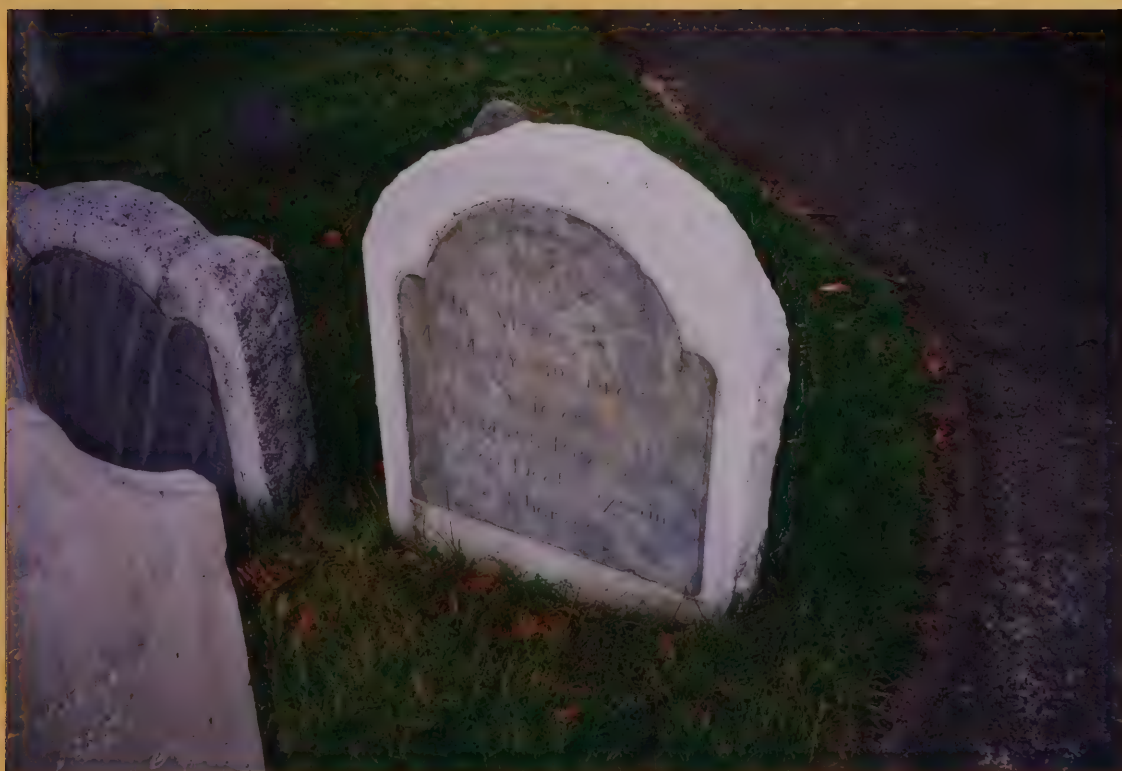




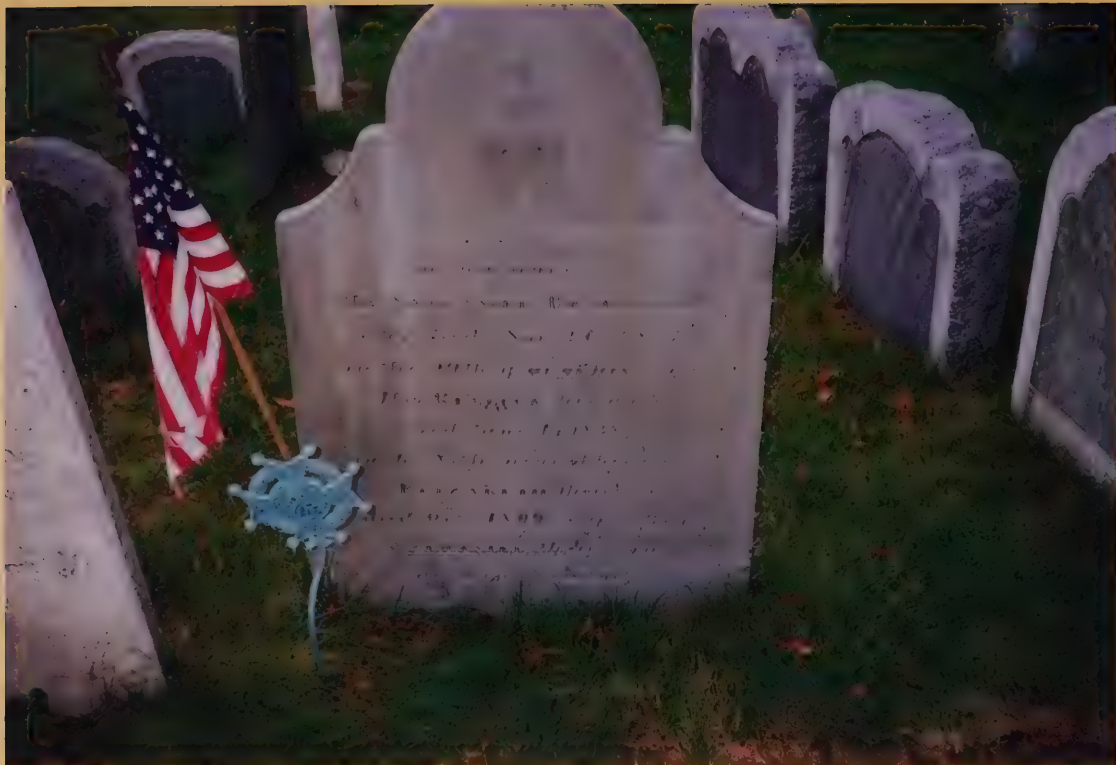
You can see the harbor from the top



more Bradford stones









# WILLIAM BRADFORD

William BRADFORD was baptized 19 Mar. 1589/90 at Austerfield, co. York, England, the son of William BRADFORD & Alice HANSON <MD 7:65>. He died 9 May 1657, ae 67 years and almost two months, at Plymouth <MD 7:65; Burial Hill (Drew):211 ("William Bradford of Austerfield Yorkshire England. Was the son of William and Alice Bradford He was Governor of Plymouth Colony from 1621 to 1633 1635 1637 1639 to 1643 1645, to 1657. Under this stone rest the ashes of Will(ia)m Bradford a zealous Puritan & sincere Christian Gov. of Ply. Col. from 1621 to 1657 (the year he died) aged 69, except 5 yrs. which he declined").>. He married 1st (ae 23), 10 Dec. 1613, Amsterdam, Holland, to Dorothy MAY <MD 9:115-117,22:63-4>. Dorothy was born c1597 (ae 16, from Wisbeach, England in marriage intention record). Her parentage is uncertain, her father is believed to have been either John MAY or Henry MAY, see Stratton:325 for discussion. (I find the wording in the marriage intention record interesting, "William Bradford...declaring that he has no parents, on the one part and Dorothy May...assisted by Henry May on the other part". One might interpret the wording to mean that William was not attended by a parent but Dorothy was; however, proof is still needed to make a positive identification.) Dorothy died 7 Dec. 1620 of accidental drowning at Cape Cod Harbour <MD 29:97-102,31:105>. William married 2nd, 14 Aug. 1623, Plymouth, Alice (CARPENTER) Southworth <MD 30:4>. (Alice m.1st, 28 May 1613, Leiden, Holland, Edward Southworth <MD 10:1,38:90> and had two children, Constant & Thomas who both settled in Plymouth.) Alice was the daughter of Alexander CARPENTER and was baptized 3 Aug. 1590, Wington, Somerset co., England <MD 38:90>. (It is interesting to note that Alice had three sisters, viz: Juliana, Mary & Priscilla who settled in Plymouth and a sister Agnes who was the first wife of Dr. Samuel Fuller) Alice died 26 Mar. 1670/1, Plymouth <MD 15:213; MSR:548 ("a most excellent woman, ae about 80"); MD 18:68 ("Mistris Allice Bradford sen<sup>r</sup> Changed this life for a better haveing attained to four-score yeares of age or therabouts shee was a godly Maton and much loved while shee lived and lamented tho aged when shee Died and was honorably enterred on the 29th" - in her will she had asked to be buried near her husband). (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for wills of Gov. William Bradford & his wife Alice.)

(See also: Mayflower Families in Progress (MFIP): William Bradford of the Mayflower and His Descendants for Four Generations, by Robert S. Wakefield, FASG, 3rd Ed., 1991 and NEHGR 83:439,84:5, Ancestry of the Bradfords of Austerfield, County York - Records Extending the Ancestral Line of Gov. William Bradford.)

William had one child by 1st wf Dorothy and three children by 2nd wf Alice:

- I. John, b. c1618, Leyden, Holland
- II. William, b. 17 June 1624, Plymouth
- III. Mercy, b. pre May 1627 (Cattle Division), Plymouth
- IV. Joseph, b. c1630, Plymouth

\* \* \* \* \*

- I. JOHN BRADFORD<sup>2</sup>, b. c1618, Leyden, Holland <MFIP #2>, d. pre 21 Sept. 1676, Norwich CT. (will exhibited) <New London Co. CT Court Rec.3:83>; m. pre 1650 (Marshfield town record in which he is married <MFIP #2>, Martha BOURNE <MD 16:24; MSR:534 (her father's will of 1664 calls her "Daughter Bradford")>), (dau of Thomas & Elizabeth), b. c1614, prob. England, d. betw. 20 Feb. 1679/80 (sold land) - 1683 <MFIP #2>. (Martha m.2nd c1679, Thomas TRACY who remarried in 1683 <MFIP #2>.) John & Martha had no known issue. (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for data regarding their wills.)

- II. WILLIAM BRADFORD<sup>2</sup>, b. 17 June 1624, Plymouth <MD 30:4; MD 1:151 (listed in 1627 Cattle Division), d. 20 Feb. 1703/4, neare 80 yrs, Plymouth <MD 4:143,15:212; Plymouth ChR 1:195 ("dyed Maj. William Bradford in the 80th year of his age. He was the son of ye Honourable Governour Bradford, and did for many years sustaine the place of Leivtenant Governour of ye Colony of New Plimouth and did almost from his Youth serve God and his Generation in both civill & military posts. He dyed in a good old age and went to his grave in peace"); (Drew):207 ("Here lies the body of/ye honourable Major/William Bradford/who expired Feb. 20/1703-4 aged 79 years/He lived long but still was doing good/& in his countres service lost much blood/After a life well spent he's now at rest/His very name and memory is blest.")> William m.1st betw. 23 Apr. 1650 <MD 9:65; Plymouth Co.Deeds 3:204 (marriage settlement from father)> - 28 Jan. 1650/51 <MD 9:90 (petition of heirs of Thomas RICHARDS)>, Alice RICHARDS, (dau of Thomas RICHARDS & Welthean LORING), b. c1627, England <MFIP #3>, d. 12 Dec. 1671, ae about 44, Plymouth <MSR:548; PCR 8:33; MD 18:68 ("Mistris Allice Bradford Jun<sup>r</sup> Changed this life for a better about the age of 44 yeeres Shee was a gracious Woman liveed much Desired Died much lamented and was buried on the 14th.")>. William m.2nd, c1674, Mrs. ( ) (FITCH) Wiswall who d. pre 1676/7 <MFIP #3>. William m.3rd, c1676, Plymouth, Mary (WOOD) Holmes <NEHGR 144:23-28>, (dau of John WOOD/ATWOOD & Mary MAST-ERSON), b. c1643, Plymouth, d. 6 Jan. 1714/5, Plymouth <MD 15:212>. (Mary m.1st, 11 Dec. 1661 Plymouth, John HOLMES <PCR 8:23>, b. ( ), d. 24 Dec. 1675 <Stratton:306> & had



chil., Joseph, Mary & Isaac.) (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Maj. Wm. Bradford.)

**15 BRADFORD Children:** (10 by 1st wf, 1 by 2nd, 4 by 3rd) <MD 9:91; MBD 1:117, MFIP #3>

1. **John BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. 20 Feb. 1652/3, Plymouth <MD 16:238,20:133; PCR 8:14>, d. 8 Dec. 1736, 84th yr, Kingston g.s. <MD 7:23,20:133>; m. 6 Jan. 1674/5, Plymouth, **Mercy WARREN**<sup>3</sup> <MD 13:205,17:192,20:133>, (dau of Joseph WARREN<sup>2</sup> & Priscilla FAUNCE - see WARREN Family), b. 23 Sept. 1653, Plymouth <PCR 8:33; MD 18:69,20:133>, d. Mar. 1747, ae 93y6m, Kingston g.s. <MD 7:23,20:133>. <See MD 1:147 & MBD 1:139 for bth. 7 chil.> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Major John Bradford.)
2. **William BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. 11 Mar. 1654/5, Plymouth <MD 17:71; PCR 8:16>, d. 5 July 1687, Plymouth <MD 15:213; MBD 1:117 (According to the Quarter Sessions, 1687-1721,p.26, an inquest was held into his death, "a cart overturned on him").>; m.c1679, Plymouth, **Rebecca BARTLETT**<sup>4</sup> <MD 6:45 (Rebecca Bradford in father's will of 1691)>, (dau of Benjamin BARTLETT<sup>3</sup> (Mary Warren<sup>2</sup>) & Sarah BREWSTER<sup>3</sup> (Love<sup>2</sup>)), b. pre 1664, d. 14 Dec. 1741, Duxbury <Duxbury VR>. (Rebecca m.2nd 1691/92, Robert Stanford who d. 1721/22 <MFIP, Warren #50 (they had one child, Robert)>, d. who marr. as his 1st wife, 22 Jan. 1679, Mary (Howland) Williamson <Marshfield VR:1>. Rebecca m.3rd, 30 Jan. 1728/9, Caleb Samson<sup>2</sup>, son of Henry Samson<sup>1</sup> and Ann Plummer; see SAMSON Fam.) <See MBD 1:163 for bth. 3 chil.>
3. **Thomas BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. c1657/8, Plymouth, d. 1 Oct. 1731, ae 73, Windham CT g.s. <TAG 11:12-14> m.1st c1681, **Anne RAYMOND** <TAG 11:12-14; MM:54>, (dau of Joshua RAYMOND & Elizabeth SMITH), b. 12 May 1664, New London CT <New London CT VR 1:14>, d. pre 8 May 1705 (will of Aunt Mary Raymond) <New London CT PR 1:299>. **Thomas** m.2nd, ( ), **Katherine** ( ) who d. 6 Nov. 1733, Lyme CT <Lyme CT VR:219>. <See MBD 1:162,172 for bth. 6 chil.>
4. **Alice BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. c1659, Plymouth, d. 15 Mar. 1745/6, (84th yr), Canterbury CT g.s. <Canterbury CT VR 1:148>; m.1st 29 Mar. 1680, Dedham, **Rev. William ADAMS** <Dedham VR 1:17; Torrey: 6>, (son of William), b. 27 May 1650, Ipswich <MBD 1:117>, d. 17 Aug. 1685, Dedham <Dedham VR 1:20>. (William m.1st, 15 Oct. 1674, Dedham, Mary MANNING & had 3 chil <MFIP #9>). **Alice** m.2nd, 8 May 1687, Norwich CT, **Maj. James FITCH** <Norwich CT VR 1:6; MM:39>, (son of James FITCH & Abigail WHITFIELD), b. 2 Aug. 1649, Saybrook CT <NEHGR 70:344>, d. 10 Nov. 1727, Canterbury CT <NEHGR 70:344>. (James m.1st, Jan. 1676/7, Norwich, Elizabeth MASON & had 4 chil. <Norwich CT VR 1:6>.) <See Dedham VR 1:17,18,21 & MBD 1:117 for bth. of 4 Adams chil. and MBD 1:117 for bth. of 11 Fitch chil.>
5. **Mercy BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, bpt. 2 Sept. 1660, Boston <Boston Rcd.Com.9:77>, d. pre 5 Apr. 1720, Hartford CT (adm.) <MDP:74; Hartford CT PR #5196>; m. 16 Sept. 1680, Hartford CT, **Samuel STEELE** <MM:48>, (son of John STEELE & Mary WARNER), b. 15 Mar. 1652, Farmington CT <MFIP #10>, d. pre 2 Jan. 1709/10, Farmington CT (adm.) <MDP:74; Hartford CT PR #5198>. <See MBD 1:150 for bth. 8 chil.> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for probates.)
6. **Hannah BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. 9 May 1662, Plymouth <Bradford Desc.:4; Waterman Gen.1:626; MFIP #11>, d. 28 May 1738, 76th yr, Windham CT g.s. <Windham CT VR 1:188; MD 28:101,102 (ae about 75)>; m. 28 Nov. 1682, Plymouth **Joshua RIPLEY** <Windham CT VR A:16; MD 28:97,101; NEHGR 121:211>, (son of John RIPLEY & Elizabeth HOBART), b. 9 Nov. 1658, Hingham <MD 28:97>, d. 18 May 1739, 81st yr, Windham CT g.s. <Windham CT VR 1:188; MD 28:98, 101 (ae about 80), 102 (81st yr)>. <See MBD 1:132, MD 28:99-100 & Windham CT VR A:16,17 for bth. 12 chil. (incl. 2 sets twins).> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Joshua Ripley & epitaphs.)
7. **Melatihah BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. 1 Nov. 1664, Plymouth <Bradford Desc.:4; MFIP #12>, d. aft. 24 Apr. 1739 (deed) <Killingworth CT Deeds 6:270>; m.1st, c1689, **John STEELE** <MM:48; MFIP #12>, (son of James STEELE & Bethia BISHOP), b. c1660, Hartford CT <MFIP #12>, d. 6 Mar. 1697/8, Hartford CT <MDP:74,82; Hartford CT PR #5188 (inv. gives dth. date). **Melatihah** m.2nd, aft. 23 June 1702, prob. Killingworth CT <MFIP #12 (when her father in law James STEELE was app'td gdn. of the children)>, **Samuel STEVENS**, (son of William STEVENS & Mary MEIGGS), b. 1 Mar. 1656, Guilford CT <Guilford CT VR 1:60>, d. pre 7 July 1712, Killingworth CT (inv.) <New London CT PR 1:653>. (Samuel m.1st Elizabeth ( ) & had 5 chil. <MFIP #12>.) <See MBD 1:150 for bth. 3 Steele & 2 Stevens chil.>
8. **Samuel BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. c1667/8, Plymouth, d. 11 Apr. 1714, ae 46, Duxbury g.s. <MD 9:160; Duxbury VR>; m. 31 July 1689, Plymouth, **Hannah ROGERS**<sup>4</sup> <MD 13:205>, (dau of John ROGERS<sup>3</sup> (John<sup>2</sup>) & Elizabeth PABODIE<sup>3</sup> (Elizabeth Alden<sup>2</sup>) - see ALDEN & ROGERS Families), b. 16 Nov. 1668, Duxbury <Duxbury VR>; MD 9:172>, d. Sept. 1754, Hingham <Hingham VR 2:15>. <See MBD 1:151 & MD 2:18 for bth. 7 chil.> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for wills of Samuel & Hannah Bradford.)
9. **Mary BRADFORD**<sup>3</sup>, b. 1668, prob. Plymouth, d. 7 May 1720, Chilmark <MBD 1:149,171; MSR:108 ("May 8. 1720, Mrs. Hunt sen<sup>r</sup> departed this life yesterday about five of the clock afternoon and was buried this evening.">; m. c1686/7, **William HUNT** <MM:49; NEHGR 4:59>, (son of Ephraim HUNT & Ebbet BRIMSMEAD), b. 1655, Weymouth <Weymouth VR>, d. (2) Jan. 1726/7, Chilmark <Chilmark VR>; MSR:111 ("Jan. 8. 1726/7 - Last night before sundown <e.g. 7 Jan.> Old William Hunt departed this life, he was a man of good age, had been long fraile. He died suddenly, none of his family knowing when he died. (Aged about 73 gravestone).>). (William m.2nd Hannah (Skiffe) Mayhew.) <See MBD 1:149 for chil.> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Wm.)





10. Sarah BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. 1671, prob. Plymouth, d. betw. 18 Oct. 1705 (bth. of twina) <MD 6:21> - 29 Sept. 1712, Marshfield (hus. will) <MD 24:27>; m. c1687, poss. Marshfield, Kenelm BAKER (based on bth. 1st ch.) <MD 5:234,24:27>, (son of Samuel BAKER & Eleanor WINSLOW), b. 23 Mar. 1657/8, Marshfield <Marshfield VR:4; MD 2:7>, d. betw. 29 Sept. 1712 (will) - 30 Mar. 1713 (inv.), Marshfield <Plymouth Co.PR 3:236; MD 24:27-30>. <See Marshfield VR:20,21,26, MD 5:234-5, 6:20,21, 24:27 & MBD 1:161 for bth. of 10 chil. & MD 11:122 for bpt. 1702 of 7 chil.> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Kenelm Baker.)
11. Joseph BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. 18 Apr. 1675, Plymouth <Bradford Desc.:4>, d. 16 Jan. 1747, 73rd yr, New London CT <Montville Cem.Rec.:11>; m.1st 5 Oct. 1698, Lebanon CT, Anna FITCH <Lebanon VR 1:20>, (dau of James FITCH & Priscilla MASON), b. 6 Apr. 1675, Norwich CT <Norwich CT VR 1:39>, d. 7 Oct. 1715, Lebanon CT <Lebanon CT VR>; Joseph m.2nd, int. 25 Feb. 1715/6, New London CT, Mary (SHERWOOD) Fitch <MFIP #16>, (dau of Mathew SHERWOOD & Mary FITCH), b. 1674 <MFIP #16>, d. 16 Sept. 1752, Montville CT <Hist. Montville:344>. (Mary m.1st, 4 Mar. 1698, Preston CT, Daniel Fitch <Torrey:269> and had five children.) <See Lebanon CT VR 1:20 for bth of 10 chil & MBD 1:146-7 for bth of 11 chil. (incl. 3 sets of twins).> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Joseph Bradford.)
12. Israel BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. c1677/8, Plymouth, d. 26 Mar. 1760, 83rd yr, Kingston g.s. <MD 7:23,18:243; MSR:236>; m. 27 Nov. 1701, Plymouth, Sarah BARTLETT<sup>5</sup> <MD 13:207,18:243>, (dau of Benjamin BARTLETT<sup>4</sup> (Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Mary Warren<sup>2</sup> - see WARREN Family) & Ruth PABODIE<sup>3</sup> (Elizabeth ALDEN<sup>2</sup> - see ALDEN Family), b. c1681, prob. Duxbury <MD 18:243>, d. 3 Apr. 1761, 80th yr, Kingston g.s. <MD 7:23,18:243; MSR:236>. <See MD 13:167-8 & MBD 1:137 for bth. 7 chil.>
13. Ephraim BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. 1685, Plymouth, d. betw. 20 Feb. 1743/4 (deed) <Plymouth Co.Deeds 36:204> - 6 Oct. 1746, Kingston (pr.) <MD 21:189-90>; m. 13 Feb. 1709/10, Plymouth, Elizabeth BREWSTER<sup>4</sup> <MD 14:36 (VR errs in giving her name as Elizabeth Bartlett), 21:189>, (dau of Wrestling BREWSTER<sup>3</sup> (Love<sup>2</sup> - see BREWSTER Family) & Mary ( ), b. c1690, d. 5 Dec. 1741, 51st yr, Kingston g.s. <MD 7:23; MSR:237>. <See MD 13:32 for bth. 10 chil. & MBD 1:130 for bth. 14 chil.> (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for will of Lieut. Ephraim Bradford.)
14. David BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. pre 1687, prob. Plymouth <MFIP #19>, d. 16 Mar. 1729/30, Kingston <Kingston VR:319; see MD 23:181-85 for probate & family data>; m. 23 Feb. 1713/4, Plymouth, Elizabeth FINNEY <MD 14:37,23:181>, (dau of Jonathan FINNEY<sup>2</sup> (John<sup>1</sup>) & Joanna KINNICUT), bpt. 27 Oct. 1695, Bristol <NEHGR 60:68>, d. aft. 9 Oct. 1746, Braintree (deed) <MD 23:183; Plymouth Co.Deeds 38:122>. (Elizabeth m.2nd, int. 10 Aug. 1733, Benjamin Ludden <MD 23:182-3>.) <See MD 12:85 for bth. 4 of 5 chil., Kingston VR for bth of 5th and MD 23:182 & MBD 1:121 for bth. 5 chil.>
15. Hezekiah BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. pre 1687, prob. Plymouth, d. aft. 10 Apr. 1761 (deed) <Plymouth Co. Deeds 52:74>; m. 21 May 1714, Plymouth, Mary CHANDLER <MD 14:37>, (dau of Joseph & Mercy), b. ( ), Duxbury, d. aft. 23 Apr. 1761 (deed) <Plymouth Co.Deeds 52:74>. <See MFIP #20 for bth. one child.>

No known issue.

- II. MERCY BRADFORD<sup>2</sup>, b. pre May 1627, Plymouth (Cattle Division) <MD 1:153>, d. prob. pre 9 May 1657 (not ment. fath. will) <MD 2:228-34>; m. 21 Dec. 1648, Plymouth, Benjamin VERMAYES <MD 15:28; PCR 8:5; MSR:544>, b. c1624 (ae 30 or thereabouts in deposition of 1 June 1754) <Suffolk Co.Deeds 2:27>, d. pre 28 9mth 1665, "Ginne" (adm.) <Essex Co.PR 2:21>.
- III. JOSEPH BRADFORD<sup>2</sup>, b. c1630, Plymouth, d. 10 July 1715, Plymouth <MD 5:217 (85th yr), 15:212 (near 84 yrs), 16:85 (ae 84), Plymouth Chr 1:214 (85th yr); Burial Hill (Drew):206 ("Here lyes interred ye body of Mr. Joseph Bradford son of the late Honourable William Bradford Esq<sup>r</sup> Governour of Plymouth Colony who departed this life July the 10th 1715 in the 85th year of his age.")>; m. 25 May 1664, Hingham, Jael HOBART <Hist.Hingham 2:90>, (dau of Rev. Peter HOBART & Elizabeth ILBROOK), bpt. 30 Dec. 1643, Hingham <Hist. Hingham 2:90>, d. 14 Apr. 1730 87th yr, Kingston g.s. <MD 7:23>. (See BRADFORD Probate Appendix for wills of Joseph & Jael Bradford.)

### 3 BRADFORD Children: <MBD 1:116>

1. Joseph BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. 18 Apr. 1665, Plymouth <PCR 8:25>, d. pre 8 Oct. 1712 (fath. will) <MD 5:217-224>.
2. Elisha BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>, b. c1669, prob. Plymouth <PN&Q 2:136 (ae 29 yrs or thereabout in June 1698 deposition)>, d. 16 June 1747, ae 78 <MED 1:116; NEHGR 111:242 (bible)>; m.1st pre 28 Jan. 1702/3, Hannah COLE (deed) <MD 8:256; Plymouth Co.Deeds 5:229; MD 27:42>, (dau of James COLE & Abigail DAVENPORT), b. ( ), d. Aug. 1718, Plymouth <MD 27:41; Plymouth CHR 1:219 (She did not die 15 Aug. as stated in MFIP #21. The first entry in the church records is that of Martha Howland who died Aug. 15, then follows: "Hannah, wf of Elisha Bradford ye same month & in ye same house").>; Elisha m.2nd, 7 Sept. 1719, Plymouth, Bathsheba LeBROCKE/BROCK <MD





14:38,27:42, 18:142 (int.)>, (dau of Francis BROCK & Sarah HOBART), b. 21 May 1703, Scituate <Scituate VR 1:50; MD 18:127>, d. aft. 17 Nov. 1758 (deed) <Plymouth Co.Deeds 41:85>. (Bathsheba m.2nd, int. 21 Mar. 1752, Kingston, Joshua OLDHAM <NEHGR 4:47>.) <See MD 13:112 for bth. 5 chil. and NEHGR 1:275-6 & MBD 1:116 for bth. 15 chil. (all by 2nd wf).>

3. **Peter BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>**, b. 1 Mar. 1676/7, Hingham <Hingham VR 1:39>, d. pre 8 Oct. 1712 (fath. will) <MD 5:217-24>

### BRADFORD PROBATE APPENDIX

**Will of Kenelm BAKER:** <MD 24:27-30; Plymouth Co.PR 3:236>

...29 Sept. 1712, ment. sons Kenelm BAKER (eldest son), Samuel BAKER, William BAKER (under 21), Edward BAKER (under 21); dau Sarah SHERMAN wf of John; daus Alice, Elanor, Abigale, Bethiah (under 18), Keziah (under 18); uncle Capt. Nathaniel WINSLOW; brother Maj. John BRADFORD; kinsman Isaac WINSLOW. Inv. 30 Mar. 1713. Pr. 6 Apr. 1713.

**Will of Lieut. Ephraim BRADFORD<sup>3</sup> (Wm.2):** (yeoman) <MD 21:189-91; Plymouth Co.PR 10:343-4,13:75>. ...16 Dec. 1741, ment. 3 sons & 3 daughters (no names). Pr. 6 Oct. 1746.

**Estate of John BRADFORD<sup>2</sup> & wf Martha:** <MDP:91>

The wills of John BRADFORD and his wife Martha have been lost. MDP:91 gives three deeds, found in Norwich CT Deeds which mention the will of Martha (BOURNE) (Bradford) Tracy. In the first, dated 12 Apr. 1690, William BRADFORD deeds to son Thomas BRADFORD the "one ninth received from my sister Martha BRADFORD widow of my brother John BRADFORD by her will". The second is dated 10 June 1690, "...wheras my respected aunt Martha formerly the widow of my uncle John BRADFORD late of Norwich deceased by her will left me all her real & personal estate in New London CT..." - John BRADFORD sells his one ninth share to brother Thomas BRADFORD. The third deed dated 1 Apr. 1691 mentions Thomas BRADFORD paying his father William BRADFORD, uncle Joseph BRADFORD and brother John BRADFORD "who were legatees unto Mrs. Martha TRACY deceased (formerly Bradford)".

**Will of John BRADFORD<sup>3</sup> (Wm.2):** (gentleman) <MD 20:133-7; Plymouth Co.PR>

...2 Oct. 1732, ment. wf Marcy; grandson Robert BRADFORD the son of dec'd son John BRADFORD; son Samuel BRADFORD; dau Alice HEARSY wf of Joshua; dau Marcy CUSHMAN widow of Isaac Jr.; dau Priscilla CHIPMAN wf of Seth, & her children; grandsons James BRADFORD, Zadock BRADFORD, Samuel BRADFORD, Eliphalet BRADFORD & William BRADFORD, the sons of dec'd son William BRADFORD; granddaughter Hannah BRADFORD dau of dec'd son William BRADFORD. Pr. 21 Dec. 1736.

**Will of Joseph BRADFORD<sup>2</sup>:** (planter) <MD 5:217-24; Plymouth Co.PR>

...8 Oct. 1712, ment. wf Jael & son Elisha BRADFORD. Inv. 27 July 1715. (The lengthy records state that the Judge of Probate refused to approve the will. Testimony from witnesses showed that the will Joseph signed was not the will he had intended. Joseph had stated that he fully intended to leave all his lands to his only son Elisha, however his signature appears on a will in which he leaves half to his son and half to his wife & her heirs. From the testimony given it appears that Joseph's wife Jael, along with her brother David HOBART, deceived Joseph into signing their own version of the will so that the Hobarts would inherit half of Joseph's lands.)

**Will of Jael (HOBART) Bradford:** (widow) <MD 16:114; Plymouth Co.PR 5:753>

...25 Mar. 1729, ment. (grand)daughter Hannah BRADFORD dau of son Elisha BRADFORD; grandsons Joseph BRADFORD, Nehemiah BRADFORD; granddaughter Uranie BRADFORD; Kinsmen, Seth CHIPMAN, Henry WETHERTON. Sworn 22 May 1730.

**Will of Joseph BRADFORD<sup>3</sup> (Wm.2):** <MDP:81; New London CT PR #667, 5:53,7:93>

...14 Sept. 1731, ment. wf Mary; eldest son Joseph BRADFORD; son John BRADFORD; eldest dau Anne DIMMOCK/DEMICK; daus Priscilla HIDE, Sarah TUTHILL, Hannah BUELL, Elizabeth BRADFORD, Alithea BRADFORD, Irene BRADFORD. Pr. 10 Mar. 1746/7.

**Will of Samuel BRADFORD<sup>3</sup> (Wm.2):** <MD 16:116-9; Plymouth Co.PR 3:301>

...26 Jan. 1713/4, ment. eldest son Gershom BRADFORD; son Perez BRADFORD; dec'd father William BRADFORD; youngest son Gamaliel BRADFORD (under 21); dau Hannah GILBERT wf of Nathaniel; daus Elisabeth BRADFORD, Jerusha BRADFORD & Welthea BRADFORD (all under 21); wf Hannah. Pr. 16 June 1714.

**Will of Hannah (ROGERS) Bradford:** (widow) <Suffolk Co.PR #12505>

...16 Apr. 1734, ment. sons Gershom BRADFORD, Peres BRADFORD, Gamaliel BRADFORD; daus Hannah GILBERT/GILBERT, Elizabeth WHITON, Jerusha GAY, Welthea LANE; son in law Peter LANE. Codicil 1 June 1747. Sworn 5 Nov. 1754.

**Will of William BRADFORD<sup>1</sup>:** <MD 2:228-234; MSR:526-7; Plymouth Co.PR 2:1:53-59>

...9 May 1657, ment. sons John BRADFORD, William BRADFORD, Joseph BRADFORD; wf Alice. Inv. 22 May 1657.



Will of Alice (CARPENTER) (Southworth) Bradford: (widow) <MD 3:144-9; Plymouth Co.PR 3:1:2-5>  
 ...29 Dec. 1669, ment. sister Mary CARPENTER; sons Constant SOUTHWORTH, Joseph BRADFORD, Capt. William BRADFORD; grandchild Elizabeth HOWLAND dau of dec'd son Thomas SOUTHWORTH (for the benefit of her son James HOWLAND). Pr. 7 June 1670.

Will of Maj. William BRADFORD<sup>2</sup>: <MD 4:143-7; Plymouth Co.PR 2:40-43>

...29 June 1703, ment. wf Mary; sons David BRADFORD, Ephraim BRADFORD, Hezekiah BRADFORD; eldest son John BRADFORD to have "my father's manuscript, viz: a Narrative of the beginning of New Plymouth"; grandson William BRADFORD (under 21) son of dec'd son William BRADFORD; to son Thomas BRADFORD lands in Norwich CT which were the lands of my brother John BRADFORD; sons Samuel BRADFORD, Joseph BRADFORD, Israel BRADFORD; grandsons John BRADFORD & William BRADFORD, sons of son John BRADFORD; daus Mercy STEEL, Hannah RIPLEY, Melatiah STEEL, Mary HUNT, Alce FITCH, Sarah BAKER; Hannah, wf of son Samuel BRADFORD. Pr. 10 Mar. 1703/4.

Will of William HUNT: (yeoman) <Dukes Co.PR 2:19-20>

...13 Mar. 1721/2, ment. son William HUNT; granddaughters Mary KNOWLES, Rebecca KNOWLES, Malatiah KNOWLES. Pr. 5 Apr. 1727.

Will of Joshua RIPLEY: <MDP:77; MD 28:102-3; Windham CT PR 2:204-5,212-3>

...6 Jan. 1738/9, ment. sons Joshua RIPLEY, Hezekiah RIPLEY, David RIPLEY; dau Jerusha RIPLEY; grandchildren An(n) BINGHAM, Abigail MANING, Samuel MANING; daus Alce EGERTON, Hannah WEBB, Leah COOK, Rachel TRACEY, Faith BINGHAM dec'd (& her dau), Margret SEBURY, Irene MANNING dec'd (& her daus), Ann WHEAT. Pr. 27 June 1739.

(<MD 28:102> Windham CT gravestones: "Here Lies Interred ye/Body of Joshua Ripley/Esq<sup>r</sup> One of His Males/ties Justices for the/County of Windham/Husband of Mrs Hann<sup>h</sup>/Ripley Departed This/Life May the 18. 1739/in ye 81 Year of his age." "Here Lies Interred the/Body of That Worthy/Vertuous and Most Ingenious/Gentlewoman Mr<sup>s</sup> Hannah/Ripley the well Beloveed Con/sort of Joshua Ripley Esq<sup>r</sup>/Who After She Had Lived/A Holy and Frietful Life/Fell Aslepe in Jesus May Ye/28:1738 in ye 70 y<sup>r</sup> of her age".)

Estate of Samuel STEEL/STEELE: <MDP:74; Hartford CT PR #5198>

...28 Feb. 1711/2, distribution to wf Mercy and children, viz: Thomas STEEL (eldest son), William STEEL, Daniel STEEL, Eliphalet STEEL, Abiel STEEL.

Estate of Mercy (BRADFORD<sup>3</sup>) Steel (Wm.<sup>2</sup>): (widow) <MDP:74; Hartford CT PR #5196>

...Apr. 1724, agreement among heirs to divide estate of mother Mercy and brother William STEEL, viz: Thomas STEEL, Daniel STEEL, Eliphalet STEEL and John WEBSTER in right of wf Abiell.

NOTES:





SAMUEL FITCH .. Jan. 16, 1724 to Oct. 4, 1799

Lawyer and Loyalist, was born in Lebanon, Conn., the son of Joseph and Ann (Whiting) Fitch, the grandson of Rev. James Fitch, first minister of Norwich, and great-grandson of John Mason of Pequot fame. James Fitch's brother was the great-grandfather of Gov. Thomas Fitch. Samuel was graduated from Yale in 1742, received a M.A. Degree and was ranked socially sixth in a class of seventeen which included JOseph Hawley, later a prominent Whig of western Mass., and Jared Ingersoll of Stamp Act notoriety. In 1746, he was lieutenant in a regiment raised for the Canadian Expedition. Admitted to the bar in Connecticut, he was courting Elizabeth Lloyd of the manor of Queen's Villiage on Lloyds Neck, Long Island, when in 1750 at the suggestion of her brother, Henry, who was a merchant in Boston, he started to practice in that town. The wedding took place in March 1753 at the manor. In 1761 and 1762 he was one of the first group elevated to the begowned and bewigged calss of barristers, and in 1766 Harvard gave him the M.S. ad eundem.

Evidently the law was his chief if not only interest. There is no record of nonprofessional activity except membership in a Fire Club, and an invitation four times repeated to inspect schools. The last betokening prominence in the community. John Adams was an intimate, and at Adam's suggestion in 1768, Fitch was made acting advocate general in the Court of Admiralty, serving until 1776. According to Adams, he never received a royal commission, but in this last statement Adams may have been mistaken, since there is in the Public Record Office a commission dated Nov. 1769. Holding this office probably determined Fitch's political attitude, though his Layalist brother-in-law, who had married into the Hutchinson family, may have been influential. Fitch was an addresser to Hutchinson on the governor's departure in 1774 and to Gage on his arrival and leaving, was a protester against the Solemn League and Covenant, and remained in Boston during the seige, departing for Halifax at the evacuation. He was proscribed and banished by the Act of Sept. 1778 and his property confiscated the next year, but there is no record of action under the law. His party to Halifax numbered seven, which probably did not include his son, William, who became an ensign in the 65th Regiment, then in Boston, on Aug. 16, 1776, and who remained in the army until he was killed by the Maroons in Jamaica, Sept. 12, 1795, as Colonel of the 83rd Regiment which he had raised in Dublin in 1793. Fitch had a pension for four children, probably including a daughter who predeceased him in England. He did not remain in Halifax, but seems to have been in Ireland in Sept. and reached London on Dec. 7, 1776. Hutchinson presented him to Lord North on Jan. 23, 1777, and Samuel Quincy speaks of him as being in residence in Feb. Except for casual mention in the papers of fellow loyalists, little is known of his last years. He was one of the Loyalist addressers to the king in 1779. He received from the British government a pension of 260 pounds and during the rest of his life was given 550 pounds a year for the loss of his professional income. Before his death, he received further compensation to the amount of \$5000 pounds. The family was intimate with the Copley's and the artist made a painting of Col. William and his sisters, probably begun about 1794 but not finished until 1801.





The ladies were described as fond of company and gaiety, but with scanty means of gratifying their taste.(Martha B. Amory, "Domestic and Artistic Life of John Copley, 1882") page 196.

Fitch died in London and was buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church, Battersea. He wife survived him less than five months.

(Edward Alfred Jones, "The Loyalists of Mass, 1930" pages 134, 35 Lorenzo Sabine, "Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution, 1864".)



ASA FITCH, Feb. 24, 1809 to April 8, 1879

(He would be a contemporary of our Indiana Nathaniel Fitch in age)

Entomologist, the son of Asa Fitch, MD, and Abigail (Martin) Fitch, was the descendant of a long line of colonial ancestors and on the maternal side, from the Brewsters of Plymouth. His father was prominent in the medical profession and in various positions of public trust. The son was born at Fitch's Point, Salem, New York, passed his boyhood on the farm, and attended the Academy at Salem, N.Y. He began a diary shortly after the age of 12, which he continued for the rest of his life. He was attracted first to botany, and collected and drew flowers and plants. In 1826, he entered the Rensselaer School at Troy (later the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute). Here he followed his natural-history bent, and took up zoology, quickly concentrating on Entomology. After graduation, upon his father's advice, he began the study of medicine, graduating at the Vermont Academy of Medicine in Castleton in 1829. Afterwards working at the Rutgers Medical College in New York City, and finally being admitted to practice from the office of Dr. March of Albany. All through his medical studies he continued work in entomology. Lacking books, he copied by hand from the various entomological works which he found in libraries in different towns in which he studied. In 1830, he became assistant professor of natural history in the Rensselaer Institute, and accompanied an expedition from the school to Lake Erie in the same year. He began the practice of medicine in 1831 at Fort Miller, New York. On Nov. 15, 1832 he married Elizabeth McNeil of Stillwater, New York.

In 1838, he gave up practice and returned to Salem, becoming interested in agriculture. His close connection with agriculture combined with his deep interest in insects made him what would be termed today an economic entomologist. He devoted most of his time to the study of the insects of his vicinity, making early studies of various grain insects and beginning to publish in 1845 in the "American Quarterly Journal of Agriculture and Science". And also in the "Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society". He was then employed to collect and name the insects of the State of New York for the State Cabinet of Natural History. In 1854, he was appointed state entomologist of New York and held this position for 17 years. During this time he published annual reports which were standard among the entomologists and agriculturalists of the United States for many years and are still considered of great value. His work was sound and far-reaching. He observed and recorded a mass of biological knowledge-of-both-the-facts concerning the principal crop pests of that time, and with his knowledge of both the biology of insects and farming practices he was able to make many valuable recommendations to the farmers of his state. Scientifically, his work was thoroughly sound, and his correspondence with scientific leaders in other parts of the country as well as in Europe was very great.





Fitch's appointment as state entomologist of New York was the first great practical step taken in the United States properly to investigate the problem of insect damage. It is true that T.W. Harris had prepared and the state had ordered published in 1841 his admirable "Report on the Insects of Massachusetts Injurious to Vegetation", but applied entomology had hitherto received not such definite official recognition as that implied in Fitch's appointment. In fact, the growth of official economic entomology in America dates from 1854. For a long time he worked virtually alone, and his admirable written and excellently arranged reports, based almost entirely upon his personal investigations, were of very great value to the agriculturists who began to be appointed years later. His style was simple and straightforward, but by no means devoid of charm. And his studies of the life history of many species were so full and so useful as to be almost beyond criticism.

His health began to fail in the late sixties, and his final report was published in 1870. He lived a quiet life until his death in 1879. C.V. Riley and P.R. Uhler, then both young men, visit him in 1870 and seem to have been impressed especially by his careful manuscript notes which at the time numbered 55,000 and were contained in 148 books. Many of these notebooks are now the property of the United States National Museum. Fitch was a deeply religious man and conducted daily family prayers and daily Bible readings. It is said, however, that on one occasion he interrupted his reading of the Scriptures to reach for collecting apparatus with which to capture a rare moth that had alighted on his Bible. (An appreciative biographical sketch by E.P. Thurston will be found in the Popular Science Monthly, Nov. 1879. Another written by C.V. Riley, is to be found in the American Entomologist, May 1880. It is this last account that the story is told of the visit of Riley and Uhler. For more ancestry, see Emma C. Brewster Jones, Brewster Genealogy, 1908.





Hollister's History of Connecticut - P.633 - Fitch-John-  
was born in East Windsor and became one of the most ingenious and  
celebrated mechanics in the age in which he lived. In the  
Revolution, he was principally employed in making and repairing arms

for the Continental Army, residing during the  
War in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In 1785 he  
conceived the idea of propelling water craft by  
steam. At that time he did not know there  
was such a thing in existence as a steam  
engine. In 1788 he obtained a patent for the  
application of steam to Navigation. During the  
year previous he had constructed a boat which  
had made an experimental trip on the Delaware  
to Philadelphia. The Governor and Council of  
Pennsylvania being present and were so gratified  
with the result that they presented Fitch with  
an elegant silk flag. The boat at the time made  
a speed of about eight miles an hour. Mr. Fitch  
subsequently visited France for the purpose of  
introducing the invention into the country,  
but as the French at that time were in the  
midst of revolutions, he failed in the  
accomplishment of his plans. Mr. Vaill, our  
Consul at L'Orient, afterward subjected to the  
examination of Robert Fulton, the papers and  
designs of Mr. Fitch. Mr. Fitch in 1790 made  
still further improvements in his Steamboat  
but was unable to obtain sufficient means  
to perfect his invention. He was, however,  
sanguine of the ultimate triumph of his plan  
of navigation, and in June 1792 in a letter  
to Mr. Wittenhouse on his favorite theme wrote:  
"This, sir, will be the mode of crossing the  
Atlantic in time, whether I bring it to  
perfection or not." It is now generally conceded  
that the honor of inventing and building  
the first steamboat in the world belongs  
to John Fitch". End Quote.

An exhaustive paper on this subject was



prepared and read before the New England Society dinner by Grove Elliott of Harvard University a few years ago. He referred to and submitted positive proof that Fitch operated this boat over 20 years before Robert Fulton's "Clermont" was built in 1807.

Fulton was a rich man and had many rich and influential friends. The dispute as to who was entitled to the honor came up and was debated by the press at an early date. A Committee was appointed to hear the evidence by the Pennsylvania Legislature and decide the matter. Fitch was ready to go before the Committee with his proofs, but the day before the hearing received what he considered reliable information that the Committee had been bribed and intended to decide against him. Refused to go before them but wrote them a letter "Copy attached" and left the State broken in health and finances. He drifted to Kentucky but was too old to recover from the blow and committed suicide there. All Fitch's papers, drawings, patents, receipts for engine etc are on exhibition in a case in the Library Building, Washington, D.C. but the strange thing to ~~see~~ Fitch's is that while all this positive documentary proof that the honor of building the first steam boat belongs to our family and no one dares dispute the fact, there stands in the corridor of the "Hall of Fame" only a short distance away, a great, large marble statue of Robert Fulton, proclaiming for him the honor, and all this erected and placed there at the expense of the

taxpayers of the State of Pennsylvania while the real builder to whom honor is due, lies in an unknown, unmarked grave, somewhere in the Kentucky Mountains.

This John was descendant of Joseph Fitch  
bro. to Rev. James

## JOHN FITCH, KNOWN AS "STEAMBOAT JOHN"

In the book "Poor John Fitch" written by Thomas Boyd, who married into the Fitch Family, I found the following which was most interesting to me and might be of interest to others who are interested in the FITCH family genealogy.

"When Thomas fitch died on his estate in Bocking, Essex County, England, four of his sons and their mother came to America. Thomas, the oldest, was one of the original settlers of Norwalk, Connecticut. Samuel became a school teacher in Hartford. James married the daughter of Major-General John Mason (as his second wife), and founded Norwich and Lebanon, Connecticut. And Joseph, to whom was entrusted his widowed mother and her 100 pounds annuity, proceeded on up the Connecticut River to Windsor of which he became a proprietor by buying a twentieth part of the township.

This first Joseph, was John's (Steamboat John) great-grandfather. He was captain of the militia and one of the half-dozen ranking citizens of the new settlement. He married and had three sons, Joseph, Nathaniel, and Samuel. Joseph married Sarah Shaler from the neighboring town of Bolton and they had five children, Joseph, Augustus, Sarah Anne, Chloe, and John.

John Fitch, Jan. 21, 1743 to July 2, 1796

Metal craftsman, inventor, was born on his father's farm in Windsor Township, Hartford County, Connecticut. He was the fifth child of Joseph and Sarah (Shaler) Fitch and was descended from Thomas Fitch of Essex, England, whose five sons immigrated to Connecticut early in the 17th century. At the age of four, he started attending a "dame school". He was an apt pupil, especially in figures, but at the age of ten was taken from school and put to work on the farm. for a number of years, however, all of his leisure was spent in reading such books as he could secure, his special interests being geography, astronomy, and mathematics. his physical weakness and inability to do his share of the farm work created in his father and older brother an antagonistic attitude which made his boyhood most unhappy.

When he was fifteen, in an effort to get away from his environment, Fitch prevailed upon his father to hire him out to the local storekeeper. This work was not to his liking, except that it accomplished his deliverance from the farm, and for the succeeding six years he tried his hand at various occupations, all of which had unfortunate endings. He shipped on a coast-wise sailing vessel, but was mistreated by the mate. He apprenticed himself successively to the clock-makers but was not permitted to study or handle either time-pieces or tools, being kept at simple brass work or farm labor. Through these apprenticeships, however, he did acquire the rudiments of brass working and founding and on the completion of his second term, on his 21st birthday, he set up a brass shop of his own in East Windsor. Doing odds and ends in the brass founding, and cleaning and repairing clocks when owners could be induced to trust





them into his hands, he paid off in two years the debt incurred when he set up his business, and then saved a bit of money, all of which he lost through an unfortunate investment in potash manufacture, of which he knew nothing.

Trying to recoup his losses by engaging again in brass work, he made the mistake of designing and equipping a plant of far greater capacity than the locality warranted. This embarrassment, coupled with the experience of an unhappy home life (he had married Lucy Roberts of Simsbury, Connecticut, on December 29, 1767) was too much for him and early in 1769 he left his family, business, and state.

Wandering southward, he eventually settled in Trenton, New Jersey, and in the course of seven years built up a profitable brass and silversmith business, only to have it wiped out in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted in a Trenton Company and was made a lieutenant but soon left the army to take charge of the Trenton gun factory. He later gained considerable profit selling tobacco and beer to the Continental Army and made an occasional attempt in resuming his silversmith's trade.

Investing his money in Virginia land-warrants, he secured a surveyor's commission, spent the whole of 1780 in surveying lands along the Ohio River and located his own claims and recorded in his own name 1600 acres in Kentucky. Early in 1782 he set out on a second expedition but was captured by Indians, turned over to the British, and held prisoner in Canada almost until the close of that year.

Upon being exchanged, he settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, organized a company to acquire and explore lands of the Northwest Territory, and made several surveying trips thither between 1783 and 1785, but all of his projects came to naught with the establishment of the federal policy of dividing the territory into mile-square sections, irrespective of the quality of the land. After the last of his surveying expeditions he made and engraved a map of the Northwest Territory from Hutchin's and Morrow's maps, with additions. (John Fitch's maps were used by Lewis and Clark when they made their trip into the Northwest Territory)

Back again in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Fitch turned his attention to the invention of the steamboat, and from 1785 until his death 13 years later, he devoted his whole time to this project. The question of financial assistance was ever his main stumbling-block. After failing to secure subsidies from the Continental Congress, and several scientific societies, he turned to the state legislatures, and from New Jersey in 1786 and 1787 from Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, and Virginia, he obtained the exclusive privilege for 14 years of building and operating steamboats on all the waters of these several states. Meanwhile he had built a number of rather successful models and with these and his privileges as talking points, succeeded in organizing a company of prominent Philadelphians whose money, added to that which he made through the sale of his map of the Northwest Territory, enabled him to start work on a 45-foot boat. He was assisted especially in the construction of the engine, by Henry Voight, a watchmaker. On the Delaware River in Philadelphia, August 22, 1787, in the presence of the members of the Constitutional Convention then in session, the vessel was suc-





cessfully launched and operated. It was propelled by a series of 12 paddles, six to a side, arranged like those of an Indian war canoe and operated by steam power.

In 1787-88 the claims of James Rumsey to priority in the application of steam to boat propulsion precipitated a controversy which elicited pamphlets from both sides but did not affect Fitch's monopoly, or deter him from proceeding to immediately begin to work on another and larger boat propelled by steam and a paddle wheel. With this boat he carried as many as 30 passengers on numerous round-trip voyages between Philadelphia and Burlington, New Jersey, and on one occasion (Oct. 12, 1788) covering the 20 miles up-stream in three hours and ten minutes. Public indifference toward steam navigation still persisted, however, and in an attempt to overcome it, Fitch persuaded the members of his company to give him funds to build a third and larger boat in 1790. His vessel was put in regular service on the Delaware River and its schedule of sailings, well maintained, was advertised in the Philadelphia daily papers. But the only encouragement Fitch received from this accomplishment was the grant of the United States patent on August 26, 1791. Later in that same year he obtained French letters patent, and started the construction of a fourth boat appropriately named "Perserverance". Before completion this was wrecked by a violent storm at Philadelphia and the disaster so discouraged the members of Fitch's company that they declined to advance any more money. In desperation, Fitch went to France, but met with no better success there in securing financial aid, even though he possessed a French patent.

Working his way back as a common sailor, he returned to Boston in destitute circumstances and ill health and from there was taken by his brother-in-law to his birthplace of Windsor. Here he remained two years or more but without attempting to see his wife or children. About 1796, he decided to return to Kentucky to claim his lands. On the way he stopped in New York long enough to try, once more, to arouse interest in his invention, for he still had his monopoly. He converted a ship's yawl into a steamboat capable of carrying four people and operated it on Collect Pond, which once existed just off Broadway near City Hall. This craft was moved by a screw propeller. The demonstration was in vain, however, and, wholly discouraged, he went on to Kentucky and settled at Bardstown, where after two years, he died.

While Fitch constructed four successful steamboats, he gave little or no attention to construction and operating costs, failed completely to see the need for demonstrating the economical aspects of steam navigation, and accordingly lost all financial support. For this reason, the steamboat era may be said to begin with Robert Fulton who launched his first steamboat after the death of Fitch.

One volume of Fitch's manuscript autobiography, written during his residence in Bardstown, is now the property of the Philadelphia Library, Ridgeway Branch; the other volume is in the possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. The main body of his papers is in the Library of Congress. There are also diaries in the Yale University Library. Biographies are, Charles Whittlesey, "Life of John Fitch" in Jared Sparks Library of American Biographies 1845.



Henry Howe, "Memoirs of the most Eminent American Mechanics", 1841.

Thompson Westcott, "Life of John Fitch", 1857

See also "Memorial to John Fitch", Government Printing Office, 1915

John Fitch, 1912, Comp. for Admiral Bunce Section, Hartford, Connecticut, No. 42,  
Navy League of the U.S.

W. B. Daempffert, "Popular History of American Invention", 1924





Swamp-fight with the Indians near Norwalk," is rubbish, first, because Abigail was living in 1680; second, the Swamp-fight was in Rhode Island, December, 1675; and third, because Jonathan Stevenson was alive in 1677, on Feb. 20 of which year land was granted him for his services in that fight! (See Hall's Norwalk.)

But the compiler has mixed up three Johns—the first, the husband of Alice; the second, the husband of Abigail, and the third, the son of John<sup>2</sup> and Abigail, who died in Danbury, before his father, and made a will in 1700; while the will of the second John, the copy and the original of which I have examined at Fairfield, is dated Dec. 25, 1706, and the year is written out in words in the instrument. But enough of this. Some of the errors are those of carelessness in copying, by one not familiar with the writing of the period; some are due, like one just mentioned, to ignorance; and some to the confusion caused by the identity of names; while the statement that the John who came in the “Assurance,” aged 20 in 1635, was the son of Count Nicholas Bouton, of France, as in the “History of Fairfield County” to have been born in 1598, is as absurd as it is impossible, if the date of the birth of Nicholas given in the “History” be correct. It is at least equally probable that he was a relative of John Bowington, of Colchester, Essex, who was summoned before the Vicar-General, March 2, 1527. (See *Annals of Non-Conformity in Essex*, by Rev. T. W. Davids, London, 1863, and *Strype, Ecc. Mem.*, I., 119.) Finally, for amusement, in this dreary waste of blunders, let the reader familiar with French heraldic terms peruse the farrago concerning the Bouton arms [in the B.-B. Family], and the explanation given of the blazon.

MARVIN-BRADLEY.—Knowing that corrections of genealogical matter in the REGISTER are desired, I send the following. My informant was Judge Ulysses L. Marvin, son of the lady.

In vol. 57, page 138, Elizabeth *Marra*,<sup>3</sup> dau. of Arba<sup>4</sup> and Esther (Chamberlain) Bradley, should be Elizabeth Choe, and she married, not *John*, but Ulysses Marvin. One of her daughters was Choe Bradley Marvin.

I have the same name from several sources, and Judge Marvin is good authority. I have full particulars of the whole family. Elizabeth Choe died 28 June, 1884.

W. T. R. MARVIN.

Longwood, Mass.

\*Page 216, Vol. I of this work.

Priscilla would have been 23 when she married James who was 42.

not everything is spooly right  
on these pages.

**MASON FAMILY.**

*Some of the descendants of Major John Mason, the Conqueror of the Pequots.*

[Communicated by Hon. REUBEN H. WALWORTH, of Saratoga Springs.]

I Gen. Major JOHN MASON, born in England, about 1600, was a Lieut. in the army, and served in the Netherlands under Sir Thomas Fairfax. He emigrated to America about 1630, settled in Dorchester, and represented that town in the General Court. In Oct. 1635, he removed to Windsor, Ct., in company with the Rev. John Warham, Henry Wolcott, Esq., and others of the first settlers of that town ; where he was elected an Assistant or Magistrate of the colony in 1642. In May, 1637, he commanded the successful expedition against the Pequots, near New London. He m. about 1640, Anne —, and in 1647 removed his family to Saybrook. In 1660 he became one of the first settlers of Norwich ; where he was Deputy Governor and Major General of the forces of the colony. He d. 30 Jan. 1672, at Norwich, where his widow d. very shortly afterwards.

Their children were:—(1) *Priscilla*, [†] b. Oct. 1641, at Windsor, m. Rev. James Fitch;—(2) *Samuel*, [†] b. July, 1664, at W., m. 1, —; 2, Elizabeth Peck;—(3) *John*, [†] b. Aug. 1646, at W., m. Abigail Fitch;—(4) *Rachel*, b. Oct. 1648 at Saybrook, m. 12 June, 1678, Charles Hill of New London, son of George Hill of Derbyshire, Eng., and d. 4 April 1679, at N. L., in giving birth to twins, who d. with her;—(5) *Anne*, [†] b. June, 1650, at S., m. Capt. John Brown, of Swansea;—(6) *Daniel*, [†] b. April, 1652, at Saybrook, m. 1, Margaret Denison, 2, —; 3, Rebecca Hobart;—(7) *Elizabeth*, b. Aug. 1654, at S., who prob. d. unm.

II Gen. 1. **PRISCILLA MASON**, m. Oct. 1664, Rev. James Fitch, first minister of Norwich, b. 24 Dec. 1622, at Bocking in Eng., came to America in 1638, and was ordained as the minister of Saybrook in 1646. She was his second wife. [By his first wife Abigail Whitfield, who d. 9 Sept. 1659, at S., he had 6 children; James, b. 2 Aug. 1649, who m. twice, and d. at Canterbury; Abigail, b. 5 Aug. 1650, prob. m. Capt. John Mason; Elizabeth, b. 2 Jan. 1652, m. Rev. Edward Taylor; Hannah, b. 17 Sept. 1653; Samuel, b. April, 1655, and Dorothy, b. April, 1658, m. Nathaniel Bissell.] Rev. James Fitch d. 18 Nov. 1702, at Lebanon. His children by his last wife, Priscilla Mason, were:—(8) *Daniel*, b. Aug. 1665, at Norwich. He m. and settled at New London North Parish, now Montville, and had a family of children. My information as to most of his family and descendants is very imperfect, but I have ascertained that he had at least three children; 1. *Daniel*, who m. Sarah —, and d. in 1755, leaving a property worth from forty to fifty thousand dollars, and leaving a widow surviving him, and two sons and 7 daughters, who were living at the date of his will, in May, 1755; to wit: Samuel Sherwood, James, Abiah, Rachel, Eleanor, Sarah, Mary, Anne, and Abigail; 2. *Capt. Adonijah*, of Montville, who m. twice. I have not been able to ascertain his first wife's name, or all his children by her. For his second wife he m. 22 April, 1744, Anne (Hyde) Gray, dau. of Samuel Hyde and Elizabeth Calkins of Lebanon, and wid. of Simon Gray of L. Anne Fitch, dau. of Capt. Adonijah, by his first wife, m.

Sheerwood - Daniel married Mary Sheerwood





1 Jan. 1750, her second cousin, Samuel Hyde (162), eldest son of Samuel Hyde and Priscilla Bradford of Lebanon, (See No. 55). Sarah Fitch, another dau. of Capt. Adonijah, by his first wife, m. 7 April, 1751, Thomas Rogers, son of Daniel Rogers of N. L. N. P., (now Montville,) and had 7 children recorded to them at N. L.; Elizabeth, b. 25 June, 1751; Parthenia, b. 8 Nov. 1752; Adonijah, b. 18 Nov. 1754; Sarah, b. 10 April, 1757; Andrew, b. 24 July, 1759; Azel, b. 27 Jun. 1765; and Frederick, b. 11 April, 1767; 3. *Mary, b.* about 1706, who m. 18 Jan. 1726, Rev. James Hillhouse, first minister of Montville, b. about 1688, at Freehall, Londonderry co., Ireland, son of John Hillhouse and Rachel his wife. He d. 15 Dec. 1740, and she had by him four children;—Esquire John, b. 18 Dec. 1726, d. 9 April, 1735; William, b. 25 Aug. 1728, m. 1 Nov. 1750, Sarah Griswold, and had by her 7 sons and three daughters; James Abraham, b. 12 May, 1730, grad. at Yale, 1749, and d. 1775, s. p.; and Rachel, m. 4 April, 1753, Deacon Joseph Chester, and d. 11 June, 1765, and had one dau., Mary, b. 1754, d. 1765. After the death of her first husband she m. 17 Nov. 1744, Rev. John Owen of Groton, and d. 1768, at the age of 62 years. She was probably the ancestress of all who inherit the Hillhouse blood in the United States;—(9) *John, [†] b. Jan. 1668, at N., m. Elizabeth Waterman;—(10) Jeremiah, [†] b. Sept. 1670, at N., m. Ruth;—(11) Jabez, b. April 1672, at N., grad. at Harvard, 1694, was a Congregational clergyman, settled as Minister at Ipswich, 1703, and at Portsmouth, N. H., about 1725, where he d. 22 Nov. 1746;—(12) Anne, [†] b. April 1675, at N., m. Joseph Bradford;—(13) Nathaniel, [†] b. Oct. 1679, at N., m. 1, Anne Abel; 2, Mindwell Tisdale;—(14) Joseph, [†] b. Nov. 1681, at N., m. 1, Sarah Mason; 2, Anne Whiting;—(15) Eleazer, b. 14 May, 1683, at N., m. his first cousin Martha Brown, (26) second dau. of Capt. John Brown of Swansea and Anne Mason, (See No. 5.) They settled at Lebanon where he was a Deacon of the church, and d. about 1747, s. p., and by his will left his property to his wife, who survived him.*

II Gen. 2. MAJOR SAMUEL MASON, m. —, and settled at Stonington, where he was a Major of Militia, and an Assistant of the colony, where she died. His children by her were:—(16) John, b. 19 Aug. 1676, at S., d. 20 March, 1705, unm.;—(17) Anne, [†] m. her first cousin Capt. John Mason (22), son of Capt. John Mason (3) and Abigail Fitch; (18) Sarah, who m. her first cousin Joseph Fitch, (See No. 14.)

Major Samuel Mason then m. 4 July, 1694, Elizabeth Peck of Rehoboth, and d. 30 March, 1705, at S., and was buried at Lebanon. She survived him and m. Gershon Palmer of S. Major Mason's children by her were:—(19) Samuel, b. 26 Aug. 1695, at S., d. 28 Nov. 1701;—(20) Elizabeth, [†] b. 6 May, 1697, at S., m. Rev. William Worthington;—(21) Hannah, b. 14 April, 1699, at S., d. Nov. 1724, unm.; and her will, dated 4 Nov. 1724, at S., was proved 10 Dec. 1724.

II Gen. 3. Capt. JOHN MASON, m. Abigail, prob. dau. of Rev. James Fitch of Norwich, by his first wife. He settled at Norwich, and represented that town several times in the colonial legislature, and was one of the Assistants of the Colony. He commanded a company in King Philip's war, and was mortally wounded in the swamp fight at Narragansett, 19 Dec. 1675; was carried to New London, where he lingered until 18 Sept. 1676, when he died. Their children were:—(22) John, [†] m. 1, Anne

Mason (17); 2, wid. Anne (Sanford) Noyes;—(23) Anne, [†] m. John Denison.

II Gen. 5. ANNE MASON, m. 8 Nov. 1672, Capt. John Brown of Swansea, b. Sept. 1650, son of John Brown of S., who d. there in March, 1662, and grandson of Mr. John Brown of Rehoboth, born in England, who was one of the assistants of the Plymouth Colony, and d. 10 April, 1662, at Rehoboth. Capt. John Brown and wife settled at Swansea, and prob. both died there. Their children were:—(24) John, b. 28 April, 1675, at S., m. 2 July, 1696, Abigail Cole; was called Capt. John Brown, and d. about 1752, at S., aged 77 years;—(25) Lydia, b. 16 May, 1679, at S., prob. m. 15 March, 1705, Joseph Wadsworth of Lebanon, Ct., and d. 27 Dec. 1752, at L., and had 3 children; John, b. 15 March, 1706, at L.; Mary, b. 29 Nov. 1707, at L., and Martha, b. 1 April, 1710;—(26) Martha, b. 20 Nov. 1681, at S., m. her first cousin Deacon Eleazer Fitch of Lebanon, (See No. 45);—(27) Daniel, b. 29 Oct. 1683, at S., d. in infancy;—(28) Eleazer, [†] b. 15 June, 1685, at S., m. Sarah Hyde;—(29) Daniel 2, b. 26 Sept. 1686, at S.;—(30) Stephen, [†] b. 29 Jan. 1688, at S., m. 1, Mary Risley; 2, Abigail;—(31) Joseph, b. 19 May, 1690, at S.

II Gen. 6. DANIEL MASON, m. Margaret Denison of Roxbury, b. 15 Dec. 1650, dau. of Edward Denison, and Elizabeth Weld of R. He had by her one child (32), Daniel, [†] b. 26 Nov. 1674, at Stonington. During King Philip's War, Daniel Mason sent his wife and child to her friends at Roxbury, where the child was bap. 9 May, 1676, by the apostle Eliot, & where she prob. died. DANIEL MASON then m. —, and lived for a time at Stonington, where she prob. died. He had by her one child;—(33) Hezekiah, [†] b. 3 May, 1677, at S., m. 1, Anne Bingham; 2, Sarah Robinson. DANIEL MASON was the school-master at Norwich in 1679, & for his 3d wife, he m. 10 Oct. 1679, Rebecca Hobart, dau. of Rev. Peter Hobart, minister of Hingham, Mass. She d. 8 April, 1727, at Stonington, where he d. about 1737. His children by her were:—(34) Peter, [†] born 9 Nov. 1680, at S., m. Mary Hobart;—(35) Rebecca, b. 10 Feb. 1682, at S., m. 6 Feb. 1707, Elisha Chicesboro of S.;—(36) Margaret, b. 21 Dec. 1683, at S.;—(37) Samuel, [†] b. 11 Feb. 1686, at S.; 1, Elizabeth Fitch; 2, Rebecca Lippincott;—(38) Abigail, b. 3 Feb. 1689, at S.;—(39) Priscilla, b. 17 Sept. 1691, at S.;—(40) Nehemiah, [†] b. 24 Nov. 1693, at S., m. Zerviah Stanton.

III Gen. 9. JOHN FITCH, m. 10 July, 1695, Elizabeth Waterman, b. Aug. 1675, at Norwich, eldest dau. of Thomas Waterman and Miriam Tracy of N. They settled at Windham, where he was J. P., town clerk, and Capt. of militia; and where he d. 24 May, 1743, and she d. 25 June, 1751. Their children were:—(41) Elizabeth, b. 1 June, 1706, at W.;—(42) Miriam, b. 17 Oct. 1699, at W., m. 16 Oct. 1740, Hezekiah Ripley, b. 10 June 1695, at W., second son of Joshua Ripley and Hannah Bradford of Hingham, and afterwards of W., and d. 9 Dec. 1744, s. p.;—(43) Priscilla, b. 5 Feb. 1703, at W.;—(44) John, [†] b. 18 March, 1705, at W., m. Alice Fitch.

III Gen. 10. JEREMIAH FITCH, m. Ruth —. They settled at Lebanon, and removed to Coventry, where he d. 1736. His will, dated 8 March, 1736, at C., was admitted to probate 23 June, 1736. Their children were:—(45) Lucy, b. 18 Sept. 1699, at L., not named in will;





prob. d. unm.;—(46) *Ruth* (twin), b. 18 Sept. 1669, at L.;—(47) *Hannah*, b. 18 Jan. 1701, at L.;—(48) *Abner*, b. 8 July, 1703, at L.;—(49) *Jeremiah*;—(50) *Gideon*;—(51) *Elisha* of Coventry, 1736, named at Executor; and (52) *James*. All these children, except Lucy, named in their father's will as then alive.

III Gen. 12. *Anne Fitch*, m. 5 Oct. 1698, Joseph Bradford, only son of Major William Bradford of Plymouth, by his second wife the wid. Wiswall. They settled at Norwich, and removed to Lebanon, where she d. 17 Oct. 1715. She had these children:—(53) *Anne*, b. 26 July, 1699, at N.;—(54) *Joseph*, [†] b. 9 April, 1702, at N., m. Honoretta Swift;—(55) *Priscilla*, (twin), b. 9 April, 1702, at N., m. Samuel Hyde;—(56) and (57) *Althea* and *Irene*, b. 6 April, 1704, and d. same month;—(58) *Sarah*, b. 21 Sept. 1706;—(59) *Hannah*, b. 24 May, 1709;—(59) *Elizabeth*, b. 21 Oct. 1712;—(60) *Althea* 2d, b. 19 Sept. 1715, m. about 1740, David Hyde, bap. 22 March, 1719, at Lebanon, fifth son of Samuel Hyde and Elizabeth Calkins of Lebanon. They settled at L., where he d. 1741. They had one child, *David*, bap. 11 Jan. 1741;—(61) *Irene* 2d, (twin), b. 19 Sept. 1715, m. 18 March, 1736, Jonathan James of Lebanon.

III Gen. 13. *Capt. Nathaniel Fitch*, m. 10 Dec. 1701, *Anne Abel*, b. 2 April, 1681, at Norwich, second dau. of Joshua Abel and Melitah Smith of N. They settled at Lebanon, where she d. 3 July, 1728. His children by her were:—(62) *Anne*, b. 5 Nov. 1702, at L.;—(63) *Joshua*, b. 13 Feb. 1704, at L., m. *Mary*, —, and had 3 children at L.; 1, *Jonathan*, b. 1 Dec. 1730; 2, *Mary*, b. 25 April, 1732, and 3, *Joseph Trumbull*, b. 28 May, 1734;—(64) *Nathan*, b. 29 March, 1705, at L., m. Hannah Huntington, who d. 1 Feb. 1738, and he d. 12 June, 1750. They had 5 children; 1, *Ebenezer*, b. 22 March, 1731, who prob. m. 20 March, 1750, Lydia Fish, and had 7 children, one of whom *Ebenezer*, b. 29 May, 1755, grad. at Yale, 1777, and was President of Williams College; 2, *Simon*, b. 24 Aug. 1733, d. 14 Dec. 1736; 3, *Cyprian*, b. 16 March, 1734, d. 12 Dec. 1736; 4, *Nathan*, b. 26 June, 1736, prob. m. 9 Jan. 1755, Dinah Higby, and had 9 children; 5, *Abraham*, b. 22 Jan. 1738, m. Elizabeth —, and d. 1 April, 1821, at Lebanon;—(65) *Nehemiah*, b. 10 Feb. 1708, m. 3 Nov. 1731, Elizabeth Vetch of Lebanon, and had a son at L., m. Ann Abel, and other children;—(66) *James*, b. 15 Oct. 1709, *Ezra*, b. 5 Sept. 1732, and had by her two children; 1, *Anne*, b. 28 Feb. 1729, and 2, *Elizabeth*, b. 28 June, 1731, at Lebanon, who m. her third cousin Col. Jeremiah Mason (204) of Lebanon, second son of Jeremiah Mason (110) and Mary Clark. James Fitch prob. m. another wife and had a son *William*, b. 18 Sept. 1734, at L.;—(67) *John*, b. 7 Jan. 1712, at L., prob. m. 5 Nov. 1734, Hannah Scott, and d. 7 Jan. 1742, and had 5 children; 1, *Anne*, b. 6 Oct. 1735; 2, *Hannah*, b. 15 June, 1737; 3, Benjamin, b. 26 Jan. 1739; 4, *Tryphena*, b. 10 Aug. 1740; and 5, *Azuba*, b. 7 April, 1742, who m. 7 Feb. 1760, Oliver Wells;—(68) *Nathaniel*, b. 14 May, 1714, at L.;—(69) *Mehitable*, b. 3 Feb. 1717, at L.;—(70) *Elizabeth*, b. 26 May, 1718, at L., d. 18 Dec. 1747, unm.;—(71) *Rachel*, b. Oct. 1720, at L., d. 23 May, 1721;—(72) *Abel*, b. 22 Nov. 1722, at L.;—(73) *Caleb*, b. 17 June, 1725, at L., prob. m. 4 April, 1747, Ruth Woodworth of Bozrah, who d. 19 March, 1751, and had by her two children; 1, *Anne*, b. 7 Jan. 1748, and 2, *Caleb*, b. 23 March, 1750. *Capt. Nathaniel Fitch* (13) then m. 17 Sept. 1729, Mindwell Tisdale of Leba-

ron, and d. 4 May, 1759, at L., aged 79 years. His children by her were:—(74) *Jabez*, b. 4 Oct. 1730, at L., d. 14 Nov. 1736;—(75) *Ezekiel*, b. 11 March, 1732, at L.;—(76) *Isaac*, b. 10 May, 1734, at L.

III Gen. 14. *Joseph Fitch*, m. 2 Nov. 1703, his first cousin *Sarah Mason* (18), youngest dau. of Major Samuel Mason (2) of Stonington, by his first wife. They settled at Stonington, and she d. previous to 1721. His children by her were:—(77) *Sarah*, b. 24 Jan. 1705, at S.;—(78) *Mason*, b. 11 Sept. 1708, at S., grad. at Yale, 1729, and d. 10 March, 1734;—(79) *Capt. Joseph*, b. 14 Feb. 1711, at S., m. 28 Dec. 1738, Zerah Hyde, b. 16 Oct. 1721, at Lebanon, eldest dau. of *Capt. Daniel Hyde* and Abigail Waitles of L., she d. s. p. *JOSEPH FITCH* (14), the first, then m. 29 Dec. 1721, Anne Whiting, b. 2 Jan. 1698, at Windham, eldest dau. of Rev. Samuel Whiting, minister of W., and Elizabeth Adams, a descendant of Gov. Bradford of the Mayflower. They settled at Lebanon, where he d. 9 May, 1741, and she d. 23 Sept. 1778, at L., grad. at Yale, 1742, was a lawyer, settled at Boston, m. Elizabeth Lloyd, was Attorney Gen. of Massachusetts, and d. 1784, in London;—(82) *Eliaser*, [†] b. 29 Aug. 1726, at L., m. Amy Bowen;—(83) *Asahel*, b. 7 Nov. 1728, prob. d. in Canada, unm.;—(84) *Ichabod*, b. 17 May, 1734, at L.;—(85) *Anne*, b. 12 July, 1737, at L.;—(86) *Thomas*, b. 11 June, 1739, at L., d. 27 Feb. 1747.

III Gen. 20. *ELIZABETH MASON*, m. 13 Oct. 1720, Rev. William Worthington, b. 5 Dec. 1695, at Hartford, son of William Worthington and Mehitable (Graves) Morton of Colechester, and grandson of Nicholas Worthington of Hartford, and his first wife Sarah (Bunce) White. He grad. at Yale, in 1716, and was a Congregational minister. They settled at Stonington, where she d. 1 Jan. 1725. His children by her were:—(87) *Mary*, [†] b. 18 Aug. 1721, at S., m. Aaron Elliot;—(88) *Sybil*, b. 9 Nov. 1723, at S., d. 23 Feb. 1724. After the death of his first wife, Rev. William Worthington m. 20 Sept. 1726, Temperance Gallup of S., and was minister of the Westbrook Society in Saybrook, where he d. 16 Nov. 1756, and had by his last wife 6 other children.

III Gen. 22. *Capt. John Mason* m. 18 July, 1701, his first cousin *Anne Mason* (17), eldest dau. of Major Samuel Mason (2) of Stonington. They settled at Lebanon—removed to S. about 1703, where she was received into the church 24 Feb. 1706, and died. His children by her were:—(89) *John*, b. 13 Sept. 1702, at L., bap. 19 May, 1706, at S.;—(90) *Rachel*, bap. 19 May, 1706, at S.;—(91) *Samuel*, bap. 30 Aug. 1707, at S.;—(92) *Jemima*, bap. 7 Aug. 1709, at S.;—(93) *James*, bap. 13 May, 1713, at S., m. 22 Nov. 1738, Sarah Denison of S.;—(94) *Elijah*, bap. 12 June, 1715, at S., m. his second cousin, Martha Brown (103), bap. 9 Sept. 1722, at Lebanon, dau. of Ebenezer Brown (28) and Sarah Hyde of L. They settled at L., where he d. 27 March, 1798, aged 83, and she died 27 March, 1805, s. p.

*Capt. JOHN MASON* (22) then m. 15 July, 1719, Mrs. Anna (Sandford) Noyes, wid. of Dr. James Noyes of Stonington, and dau. of Gov. Peleg Sandford of R. I., and grand-dau. of Gov. William Brewster of Newport. They removed to New London, N. P. (Montville), where he was a teacher of the Indians at Mohegan. He d. Dec. 1736, at London, where he had gone, with Malomet, grandson of Oweneco, to obtain recognition by the





1 June, 1736, d. 4 July, 1748; and 9, *Hezekiah*, b. 3 Dec. 1739;—(114) *Mary*, [†] m. David Huntington;—(115) *Rachel*, [†] b. 31 Aug. 1707, at Lebanon, m. Charles Mudge;—(116) *Daniel*, living 24 Nov. 1731, prob. d. unm.;—(117) *Jonathan*, b. 30 July, 1715, at W., united with church at W. 1738;—(118) *Lydia*, d. 7 Oct. 1727, at Mansfield;—(119) *Abigail*, [†] m. Jacob Lincoln. *Hezekiah* Mason (33) then m. 15 Nov. 1725, Sarah Robinson, and d. 15 Dec. 1726, at W. without issue by her.

III Gen. 34. *PETER MASON*, m. 8 July, 1703, *Mary Hobart*. They settled at Stonington and removed to New London, N. P. Their children were;—(120) *Peter*, b. 25 Aug. 1704, at S., d. 9 Sept. 1704;—(121) *A* dau. b. 13 Sept. 1705, at S., d. unnamed;—(122) *Daniel*, b. 25 March, 1707, m. 19 Dec. 1734, *Hannah* Chappel of N. L., and settled at Stonington, where he d. 5 Feb. 1750. They had 4 children; *Joseph*, b. 9 Jan. 1736; *Althea*, b. 23 Jan. 1739; *Priscilla*, b. 29 March, 1746; and *Daniel*, b. 28 Dec. 1749;—(123) *Japhet*, b. 28 Dec. 1709, at N. L., d. 11 July, 1711;—(124) *Mary*, b. 31 May, 1711, at N. L.;—(125) *Japhet*, 2d, [†] b. 30 Sept. 1713, at N. L., m. ——— Chappel;—(126) *Abigail*, b. 3 Sept. 1715, at N. L., m. 11 Dec. 1737, *Samuel* Lester of Groton;—(127) *Peter*, [†] b. 28 Dec. 1717, at N. L., m. *Margaret* Fanning;—(128) *Althea*, b. 9 Dec. 1720, at N. L.

III Gen. 37. *SAMUEL MASON*, m. 15 April, 1712, *Elizabeth* Fitch, and settled at Stonington, where she d. 8 Feb. 1715. His child by her was;—(129) *Mehitable*, b. 15 Sept. 1713, at S., d. 6 Oct. 1713. He then m. 22 Feb. 1720, *Rebecca* Lippincott. They settled at S., where the following children were recorded to them;—(130) *Elizabeth*, b. 16 October, 1720, at S.;—(131) *Rebecca*, b. 2 June, 1722, at S., d. 29 Aug. 1723;—(132) *Rebecca*, 2d, b. 21 March, 1724, at S., d. in infancy;—(133) *Samuel*, b. 25 May, 1726, at S.;—(134) *Rebecca*, 3d, b. 3 June, 1728; b. 6 (135) *Prudence*, b. 2 April, 1730, at S., had an illegit. child, *Ianthe*, b. 6 Oct. 1752, and d. 12 May, 1759, unm.;—(136) *Elnathan*, b. 16 June, 1732, at S.;—(137 and 138) *Mehitable* and *Eunice*, (twins), b. 1 June, 1734, at S.

III Gen. 40. *NEHEMIAH MASON*, m. 9 Jan. 1722, *Zerviah* Stanton, b. 20 Sept. 1704, at Stonington, third dau. of *Joseph* Stanton and *Margaret* Cheesboro', and g. g. dau. of *Thomas* Stanton the first, of Stonington, and *Anne* Lord his wife. They settled at S. and owned *Mason's Island*. He d. 13 May, 1768, and she d. 12 Oct. 1771. Their children were;—(139) *Hobart*, [†] b. 6 Oct. 1722, grad. at Yale, 1748, m. *Margaret* Copp; (140) *Andrew*, b. 12 Oct. 1724, d. 28 March, 1728;—(141) *Hannah*, b. 10 June, 1726, at S., m. 4 Oct. 1750, *Henry* Gallup of Groton, Ct.;—(142) *Andrew*, 2d, [†] b. 3 Feb. 1730, at S., m. *Mary* Gallup;—(143) *Jared*, b. 29 July, 1733, at S., m. 23 Jan. 1755, *Hannah* Parke of Groton;—(144) *Zerviah*, b. 26 Aug. 1735, at S., m. ——— Holmes, and at date of her father's will, July 1765, had 2 daus., *Zerviah* and *Mary*.

IV Gen. 44. *Capt. JOHN FITCH*, m. 25 Jan. 1731, *Alice* Fitch, and settled at Windham, where he d. 19 Feb. 1760. Their children were;—(145) *John*, b. 14 July, 1732, at W., prob. m. 7 Nov. 1753, *Mercy* Lathrop, and settled at Windham, where he d. 5 June, 1757. He had 2 children; 1, *Alice*, b. 1 Jan. 1755, and *John*, b. 11 Jan. 1756;—(146) *Alice*, b. 7 Oct. 1734;—(147) *Ebenezer*, b. 30 Nov. 1736, at W., m. 4 May, 1760, *Chloe* Kingsbury, and d. at Salisbury. Had 2 children re-

corded to them at W.; 1, *Cynthia*, b. 19 Nov. 1761, and 2, *Elizah*, b. 10 Dec. 1763;—(148) *James*, b. 9 April, 1739, at W., prob. m. 23 May, 1763, *Anne* Hulbert, and had 2 children recorded to them at W.; 1, *Anna*, b. 16 Oct. 1765, and 2, *James*, b. 11 March, 1767;—(149) *Miriam*, b. 9 June, 1741, m. *Isaac* Canada;—(150) *Elizabeth*, b. 4 Oct. 1743, m. *Sandford* Kingsbury;—(151) *Elizah*, b. 8 Jan. 1746, at W., m. 17 April, 1766, *Hannah* Fuller, and had 1 child recorded to them at W., *Elizah* Lord, b. 12 Dec. 1766;—(152) *Jabez*, b. 2 March, 1748, at W., m. 7 Oct. 1773, *Olive* Ripley, and settled at W., where he d. 23 June, 1789. They had 5 children; 1, *Anna*, b. 11 Jan. 1776, at W.; 2, *Elizabeth*, b. 19 May, 1777; 3, *John*, b. 5 Jan. 1779; 4, *Olive*, b. 26 Sept. 1780; 5, *Lucy*, b. 9 Nov. 1783;—(153) *Eunice*;—(154) *Lucy*, b. 26 March, 1753.

IV Gen. 54. *JOSEPH BRADFORD*, m. March 1730, at New London, N. P., (Montville) *Honorata* Swift. Their children were;—(155) *Elizabeth*, b. 17 Jan. 1731, at N. L.;—(156) *Anne*, b. 23 July, 1732, at N. L.;—(157) *William*, b. 13 April, 1734, at N. L.;—(158) *Honory* Swift (son), b. 21 Aug. 1736;—(159) *Robert*, b. 21 July, 1739;—(160) *Hannah*, b. 10 March, 1741;—(161) *Joseph*, b. 10 Jan. 1745.

IV Gen. 55. *PRISCILLA BRADFORD*, m. 14 Jan. 1725, *Samuel* Hyde, b. 10 Sept. 1691, at Windham, eldest son of *Samuel* Hyde and *Elizabeth* Calkins, and gr. son of *Samuel* Hyde the first and *Jane* Lee of Norwich. They settled at Lebanon, where he d. 14 Feb. 1776, and she d. 14 May, 1778. Their children were;—(162) *Samuel*, b. 24 Oct. 1725, at L., m. 1 Jan. 1750, his second cousin *Anne* Fitch, dau. of *Capt. Adonijah* Fitch of New London, N. P., (See No. 8.) They had 5 sons and 2 daus.;—(163) *Dan*, b. 7 May 1733, at L., m. *Mary* Wattles, dau. of *William* Wattles and *Abigail* Denison of L., and had 2 children; 1, *Mary*, who m. 24 June, 1784, *James* Benjamin of East Hartford; and 2, *Priscilla*, who m. 19 Oct. 1794, *John* Pitkin of E. H.;—(163) *Anne*, b. 22 Oct. 1727, m. 2 Oct. 1755, *Jared* Hinckley of Lebanon, and had 4 sons and 2 daus.;—(164) *Priscilla*, b. 16 April, 1731, d. 5 Oct. 1732;—(165) *Sybil*, b. 16 April 1731, (twin), m. 11 Dec. 1753, *Jabez* Metcalf, b. 30 Nov. 1718, at L., son of *Ebenezer* Metcalf and *Hannah* Abel. She d. 5 Nov. 1790, and he d. 15 Nov. 1794. They had 2 children; 1, *Joseph*, who m. *Clarissa* Thomas; and 2, a dau. d. unnamed;—(166) *Priscilla*, 2d, b. 4 June, 1735, at L., d. 4 July, 1759, unm.;—(167) *Hannah*, b. 19 July, 1738, at L., m. 4 Nov. 1760, *Lieut. Daniel* Moulton of Mansfield, who d. 17 April, 1767, and had by her 2 sons, 1, *Guardon*, b. 29 Sept. 1763, and 2, *Daniel*, b. 18 Dec. 1765;—(168) *Zerviah*, b. 15 Dec. 1740, at L., m. 20 Sept. 1758, *Dr. Andrew* Metcalf, b. 5 Dec. 1736, at L., son of *Benjamin* Metcalf and *Sarah* Abel. They had 2 sons and 3 daus.; 1, *Jabez* H., b. 26 Aug. 1761, m. *Violata* Thomas; 2, *Lute*, b. 4 May, 1764, m. ——— Frink, and removed to Oxford, N. Y.; 3, *Priscilla*, b. 29 July, 1759, m. *Samuel* Robinson, son of *John* Robinson and *Thankful* Hinckley of L.; 4, *Sarah*, who d. unm.; 5, *Hannah* Hyde, who m. *Chandler* Woodworth, and d. s. p.; (169) *Abigail*, b. 4 Nov. 1744, at L., d. 20 Dec. 1830, at the age of 86 years, unm.

IV Gen. 82. *Col. ELEAZER FITCH*, grad. at Yale, 1743, and was a lawyer. He m. 4 April, 1746, *Amy* Bowen of Providence. They settled at Lebanon and removed to Windham, where he was a colonel of militia and sheriff of the county. He refused to take a part against the British government, in the war of the Revolution, and at the close of the





war he went to St. Johns, L. C.,(?) where he died. Their children were:—  
 (170) *Anne*, b. 18 April, 1747, at Providence, m. 29 Nov. 1767, her father's second cousin, Major Ebenezer Whiting, b. May, 1735, youngest son of Lieut. Charles Whiting and Elizabeth Bradford, a descendant of Gov. William Bradford, and of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, of the Mayflower. They settled at Norwich, and he was an officer in the Rev. and d. 6 Sept. 1794, at Westfield, Mass., she d. 27 June, 1827. Their children were:—1, *Augustus*, m. Elizabeth Hoes; 2, *Edward*, m. Nancy Perkins; 3, *Henry*, m. Nancy Goodwin, and was brevet Brigadier Gen. in U. S. army, and d. 10 Sept. 1851 at St. Louis; 4, *Nancy*, m. Gordon; 5, *Charles*, m. Margaret Regis and lived at Kinderhook, N. Y.; 6, *Bowen*, m. Nancy McKinstry, and was a lawyer and settled and d. at Geneva, N. Y., and was circuit judge for the 7th circuit; 7, *Elizabeth*; 8, *Charlotte*; and 9, *Bernice*;—(171) *Elizabeth*, b. 12 Feb. 1749, at L., m. 7 Jan. 1767, Ebenezer Backus, b. 17 Aug. 1747, at Norwich, only son of Ebenezer Backus, Esq., of N. by his 2d wife Eunice Dyer. They settled at N., and had 5 children; 1, *Eunice*, b. 5 May, 1768, at N.; 2, *Eleazer Fitch*, b. 13 Jan. 1770, at N., m. Harriet Whiting, b. 14 Sept. 1779, youngest dau. of Col. William Bradford Whiting and Amie Lathrop of Canaan, N. Y. They settled at Albany, where she d. 13 July, 1804, leaving one child. He then m. 8 June, 1807, Elizabeth Chester, b. 10 Nov. 1774, at Weathersfield, eldest dau. of Col. John Chester and Elizabeth Huntington, and had by her three children; Rev. Jonathan Trumbull Backus, D. D., Presbyterian clergyman at Schenectady, N. Y., Rev. John Backus, D. D., Presbyterian clergyman at Baltimore, Md., and Mary the wife of James Bayard, Esq., of Philadelphia; 3, *Elizabeth*, b. 22 March, 1775; 4, *Alexander*, b. 5 May, 1777; 5, *Lydia*, m. 21 Oct. 1801, Nathan Whiting, b. 16 May, 1772, son of Col. William Bradford Whiting and Amie Lathrop of Canaan, N. Y., and d. 1 Dec. 1832, at New Haven, had 4 sons and 3 daus.; 6, *Julia*, m. 1, Ebenezer Jones of Troy, N. Y., and 2, Samuel Cheever, and had children by each;—(172) *Amy*, b. 20 June, 1751, at W., m. 12 April, 1781, William Temple of Boston, and had by him one son, Robert, who settled at Rutland, Vt., and had a family. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Amy (Fitch) Temple m. 29 March, 1790, Isaac Clark of Castleton, Vt., who was a Col. in the army of the U. S. in the war of 1812, and had children by him;—(173) *Thomas Mason*, b. 9 Oct. 1753, at W.;—(174) *Philena*, b. 4 July, 1755, at W.;—(175) *Henry*, b. 12 Oct. 1757, at W.;—(176) *Sarah*, b. 18 Jan. 1760, at W., m. 1784, Hezekiah Perkins of Norwich, son of Jacob Perkins and Jemima Leonard, and grandson of Jabez Perkins the first and Hannah Lathrop of N. They settled at Norwich and had 6 children; Francis Asher; Eliza Leonard d. in infancy; George Leonard; Charlotte; Henry Fitch; and a dau. who d. in childhood;—(177) *Mary*, b. 22 Nov. 1761, at W.;—(178) *Christopher*, 23 April, 1763, prob. m. 29 April, 1784, Lydia Ripley, of W., and had 4 children recorded to them at W.; 1, *Thomas Mason*, b. 18 Jan. 1785; 2, *Henry*, b. 15 March, 1787; 3, *Lucy*, b. 17 July, 1789; and 4, *Erastus Ripley*, b. 9 May, 1792;—(179) *Frances*, b. 27 Aug. 1765, at W., m. 1782, Bela Backus of W.;—(180) *George*, b. 7 March, 1768, at W.;—(181) *Lucy*, b. 20 May, 1771, at W., m. 1790, Lebbeus Larabee of W.

IV Gen. 87. *MARY WORTHINGTON*, m. 14 Feb. 1745, Aaron Elliot, b. 15 March, 1718, at Killingworth, second son of Rev. Jared Elliot, D. D.

and Elizabeth Smithson, and g. g. son of John Eliot the apostle. He was a physician, and they settled at K., where he was Col. of militia, and was frequently elected to the general assembly. She d. 28 June, 1785, and he d. 30 Dec. 1785, at K. Their children were:—(182) *Hannah*, b. 31 Aug. 1746, at K., m. 23 Nov. 1773, Gen. Reuben Hopkins, b. 1 June 1748, at Amenia, N. Y. He was a lawyer, and they settled at Charlotte and removed to Goshen, N. Y., where he was a Brig. Gen. of militia and commanded a brigade of militia in the service of the U. S., at Plattsburgh, in the war of 1812, and d. about 1819, in Ill. They had 8 children; 1, *Eliot*, b. 12 Sept. 1774, m. Julia Howell, 16 Jan. 1815, at Cincinnati, and had 6 children; 2, *Benjamin Bronson*, b. 16 March, 1776, married, and 26 Sept. 1852, d. at Augusta, Ga., and had a family of children; 3, *Mary*, b. 2 Dec. 1777, d. in 1820 at Cincinnati, unm.; 4, *Adelaide*, b. 3 March, 1780, m. at Goshen, N. Y., where she d. 3 March, 1846, and left children; 5, *Rebecca*, b. 16 Jan. 1782, m. and 3 April, 1816, d. in Ontario co., N. Y.; 6, *William Hector*, b. 12 Nov. 1784, m. and in 1840 d. at St. Louis, Mo., leaving a large family; 7, *Hannibal Mason*, b. 8 Aug. 1788, m. and settled at Goshen, N. Y., s. p.; 8, *Delinda*, b. 25 March, 1792, m. and 28 May, d. 1823, at Madison, Ga.;—(183) *Mary*, b. 11 July, 1752, at K., m. about 1798, Dr. Christopher Ely of Lyme, son of Daniel Ely. She was his 3d wife, and d. s. p.;—(184) *Samuel Smithson*, b. 2 July, 1753, at K. He m. 17 March, 1779, Margaret Williams, b. May 1753, dau. of Judge John Williams of Sharon. They settled at Sharon, where she d. 27 Oct. 1802. He had by her 8 children, 1, *Samuel Williams*, b. 31 March, 1780, m. 31 Jan. 1809, Sarah Canfield, b. 27 Dec. 1787, at New Milford, settled at Northampton, N. Y., and removed to Penfield, where he d. 30 Aug. 1831, and had 6 sons and 4 daus.; 2, *William Worthington*, b. 21 April, 1782, at S., m. Jan. 1809, Eunice Thomas of Ballston, N. Y., settled at Northampton, N. Y., removed to Ballston Spa, and in 1836 to Niles, Mich., and d. 13 Oct. 1839, and had 3 children; Eunice Harriet m. Allen G. Kellogg; William Sidney m. Oct. 1836, Louisa Carrington, and 30 Nov. 1844, Caroline Morse, and had 5 children; and Caroline Elizabeth, m. John Orr, of Niles, Mich.; 3, *Hannah*, b. 12 May, 1784, at S., m. 1814, Daniels B. Stowe of Claverack, N. Y., and had one child, and d. 12 May, 1830; 4, *Margaret*, b. 19 June, 1786, at S., m. 6 Sept. 1811, Salmon Hunt of Sharon, removed to Northampton, N. Y., and then to Rochester, where she d. 4 Nov. 1836. She had 3 sons and 3 daus.; 5, *John Aaron*, b. 16 Oct. 1788, at S., m. 4 June, 1809, Joanna Bailey of S., removed to Redhook, N. Y., and afterwards returned to S., where she d. 11 Jan. 1848. He had by her 6 sons and 4 daus. He then m. 8 Nov. 1848, Hannah Eliza Jancey; 6, *Mary Ely*, b. 13 April, 1791, at S., m. Festus Demming of Goshen, N. Y., and removed to Goshen, O., where she d. Dec. 1827. He had by her 3 sons and 3 daus.; 7, *Joseph Benjamin*, b. 23 July, 1794, at S., m. 1814, Hannah Waldo of Chatham, N. Y., and removed to Northampton, N. Y., and d. 20 Dec. 1820, and had 2 children; Hannah Cornelia, m. Sylvester Reynolds of Chatham, and Samuel Waldo; 8, *Elizabeth*, b. 22 July, 1799, at S., m. 28 May, 1838, Rev. Noah Cook of Bertrand, Mich., and was living at Woodville, Ill., s. p.

After the death of his first wife, Samuel Smithson Elliot m. 17 July, 1803, Sarah Bailey, b. 19 Dec. 1765, at Sharon, and d. 22 April, 1812. He had by her two other children; 9, *Isaac*, b. 9 July, 1806, at S., m. 11 March, 1834, Sarah Hurd, b. 28 Jan. 1816, dau. of Arba Hurd of Pitts-





- P. 282 14 June 1743, Charles Burwell (sic) of Canaan gte., 9th lot in 1st Div.
- P. 284 13 Feb. 1743/4, John Gay of Sharon (Conn.) gr. to Capt. Abel Wright of Kent (Conn.), the 13th lot in 1st Div., also the 16th lot in the 3rd Div., which latter abutted in part on "Colonel Fitches land" and in part on "Mr. John Smiths land" and in part on "Newton's Grant." Wit. John and Stephen Calkins. Ment. made (p. 286) of "Hyway to the Iron Works."
- P. 287 18 Feb. 1743/4, Samuel Bellows gr. to Thomas Rood, both of Sal. Ment. made of a 200 a. grant of land which Cornelius Dutcher of Sal. purchased of Benjamin Lewis of Stratford.
- P. 294 8 Nov. 1743, Samuel Clark of Sal. gte. Zadock Gibbs a witness.
- P. 297 25 Feb. 1743/4, Humphrey Avery of Groton (Conn.) gr. to Thomas Chipman of Groton (Conn.)—four parcels of land in Sal.
- P. 298 8 Feb. 1743/4, Humphrey Avery of Groton (Conn.) for £439, 12s. O. T. sells to John Fitch of Windham (Conn.) all his right, i. e. 3/7 part of the grant of 500 acres made to the heirs of Ebenezer Fitch of Windsor. Avery obtained his 3/7 by purchase from James Fitch of Durham (Apr. 15, 1743) and from Elijah Fitch of Windsor (Apr. 19, 1743) both sons of said Ebenezer Fitch of Windsor deceased. The bounds of the entire 500 a. grant are then given—the first bound being "the southwest corner of the Colledge land."
- P. 300 17 Feb. 1743/4, Medinah Fitch of Windsor (Conn.) son of Ebenezer Fitch late of Windsor deceased, for £136 O. T. sells 1/7 part of the above 500 a. grant to John Fitch of Windham.
- P. 301 18 Apl. 1743, Eleazer Fitch of Windham another son of said Ebenezer Fitch of Windsor dec'd,





- Everest, Polly, d. of Jared and Hannah, b. in Sal., Nov. 10, 1793.  
 Everest, Polly, d. of Jehiel and Sally, b. in Sal., Dec. 8, 1789.  
 Everest, Rebeckah Marsh, d. of Ethan and Sylvia, b. in Sal., Oct. 6, 1789.  
 Everest, Rhoda, d. of David and Lois, b. in Sal., Jan. 25, 1773.  
 Everest, Sally, d. of Elisha Jun. and Susannah, b. in Sal., Oct. 22, 1780.  
 Everest, Sally, d. of Jared and Hannah, b. in Sal., Feb. 10, 1798.  
 Everest, Samuel, s. of David and Lois, b. Apr. 2, 1768.  
 Everest, Sarah Ann, d. of Jehiel and Sally, b. in Sal., Nov. 14, 1794.  
 Everest, Silvester, s. of David and Lois, b. in Sal., May 23, 1781.

F

- Farnam, Bezaleel, d. Jan. 26, 1776, in his 53rd y.  
 Farnam, Elisheba and Peter Mason, both of Sal., m. Mch. 24, 1774, by J. Lee.  
 Farnam, Freelope, d. of Philip and Hannah, b. in Sal., Apr. 13, 1787.  
 Farnam, Horace, s. of Philip and Hannah, b. in Sal., July 8, 1789.  
 Farnam, Phebe and Hezekiah Hutchinson, both of Sal., m. Jan. 4, 1776, by John Hutchinson, J. P.  
 Farnam, Philip, s. of Philip and Hannah, b. in Sal., Aug. 15, 1791.  
 Farnum, Merriam of Sal. and Abijah Hutchinson of Lebanon, m. Feb. 27, 1783, at Sal., by Abiel Camp, J. P.  
 Ferre, Theodosia and Charles Chapin Jr. both of Sal., m. Apr. 11, 1776, by J. Lee.  
 Fitch, [ ]annah, wife of Eben<sup>r</sup>, d. Apr. 12, 1771, in her 38th y.  
 Fitch, Abigail, d. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Dec. 11, 1770.  
 Fitch, Anna, d. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Sept. 23, 1783.  
 Fitch, Asa, s. of Joshua Jun., and Rebe, b. in Sal., Oct. 20, 1778.  
 Fitch, Bette, d. of Jonathan and Ann, b. in Sal., July 25, 1771.  
 Fitch, Charlotte, d. of Joshua and Reba, d. Feb. 1, 1795, in her 21st y.





- Fitch, Charlotta, d. of Joshua Jun. and Rebe, b. in Sal., Apr. 5, 1774.
- Fitch, David, s. of Jonathan and Ann, b. May 8, 1769.
- Fitch, Eben<sup>r</sup> and Hannah Way, both of Sal., m. May 19, 1768, by J. Lee.
- Fitch, Eben<sup>r</sup> and Sarah Trumble, of Sal., m. May 30, 1771, by J. Lee.
- Fitch, Elias, s. of Joshua Jun. and Rebe, b. in Sal., Oct. 12, 1783.
- Fitch, Ezra, s. of Jonathan and Ann, b. in Sal., Dec. 12, 1773.
- Fitch, Hannah, d. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Oct. 3, 1768.
- Fitch, Hannah, d. of Eben<sup>r</sup> and Hannah, b. in Sal., Apr. 7, 1771.
- Fitch, Henry, s. of Joshua Jun. and Rebe, b. in Sal., May 18, 1788.
- Fitch, James, s. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., July 22, 1787.
- Fitch, John, s. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Jan. 30, 1775.
- Fitch, John, s. of Sarah Fitch, b. in Sal., Jan. 15, 1782.
- Fitch, Joshua, d. in Sal., Apr. 29, 1792, a. 46 y.
- Fitch, Joshua, s. of Jonathan and Ann, b. in Sal., May 28, 1777.
- Fitch, Joshua Jr., of Sal. and Rebe Rood of Sheffield, m. Dec. 23, 1773, by John Hutchinson, J. P.
- Fitch, Joshua Sen., d. in Sal., June 7, 1790, in his 87th y.
- Fitch, Lydia, d. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Mch. 6, 1777.
- Fitch, Mary, d. of Joshua Jun. and Rebe, b. in Sal., Sept. 7, 1776.
- Fitch, Nath<sup>l</sup>, s. of Jonathan and Ann, b. Feb. 15, 1767.
- Fitch, Parnel, d. of Joshua Jun., and Rebe, b. in Sal., Dec. 5, 1780.
- Fitch, Rachel, d. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Jan. 25, 1773.
- Fitch, Sally, d. of Joseph and Jemima, b. in Sal., Aug. 9, 1785.
- Fitch, Sanford, s. of Eben<sup>r</sup> and Hannah, b. Aug. 12, 1769.
- Fitch, Sarah, d. of Eben<sup>r</sup> and Sarah, b. in Sal., Oct. 20, 1774.
- Fletcher, Ebenezer, d. Oct. 3, 1771, in his 73rd y.
- Fletcher, Ebenezer, s. of Eben<sup>r</sup> and Olive, b. in Sal., July 18, 1772.
- Fletcher, Lydiah, d. of Eben<sup>r</sup> Jun. and Olive, b. in Sal., Aug. 4, 1770.
- Fletcher, Olive, d. of Eben<sup>r</sup> and Olive, b. in Sal., Oct. 24, 1774.

Northwest Corner of Conn.

Salisbury Collection



## JOHN MASON

Major John Mason was born in England in 1600. He served in the Netherlands in the English Army in behalf of the Dutch patriots against Spain, under Sir Thomas Fairfax. Here he attained the rank of Lieutenant.

He came to New England in 1630, settling first in Dorchester where he was a Deputy to the General Court and aided in the founding of Windsor, Connecticut.

He was sent by the General Court, in company with John Gallup and twenty men, to break up a gang of pirates who infested the coast. For this he was made Captain and received ten pounds from the government.

In September 1634, he was one of a company of Military men to plan the fortifications of Boston Harbor, where Mason's Island is named in his honor. And he personally superintended the completion of the Battery upon Castle Island.

In 1635, he represented the town of Dorchester in the General Court, and while a member of that body, he and Reverend John Wareham and his church, asked for permission to move and found a colony on the Connecticut River at Windsor. This request was granted. From 1637 to 1641 he was a Magistrate; from 1641 to 1659 he was a member of the General Court; from 1659 for ten consecutive years he was Lieutenant Governor.

He and Reverend James Fitch were by far the most prominent persons in the company that moved from Saybrook and founded Norwich. Reverend James married, as his second wife, Priscilla Mason.

Priscilla Mason married Rev. James Fitch October 1664

Son; Captain John Fitch married Elizabeth Waterman, July 10, 1695

Son: Captain John Fitch II married Alice Fitch, January 25, 1731

Alice Fitch was the daughter of Ebenezer Fitch and Bridget Brown, granddaughter of Alice Bradford and Major James Fitch; great granddaughter of Major William Bradford; and great, great granddaughter of Governor Bradford.

Son: John Fitch III married Mercy Lathrop, November 7, 1753

son: John Fitch IV married Mary-----, his second wife. He was a posthumous son as his father died June 25, 1755 and he was born January 11, 1756

Son: Nathaniel Fitch I married Sarah Keeler on August 29, 1801

Son: Nathaniel Fitch II married Sarah Elizabeth DeLong, June 4, 1840  
Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, daughter of Nathaniel Fitch II, married Irvin Franklin Stratton, December 28, 1881.

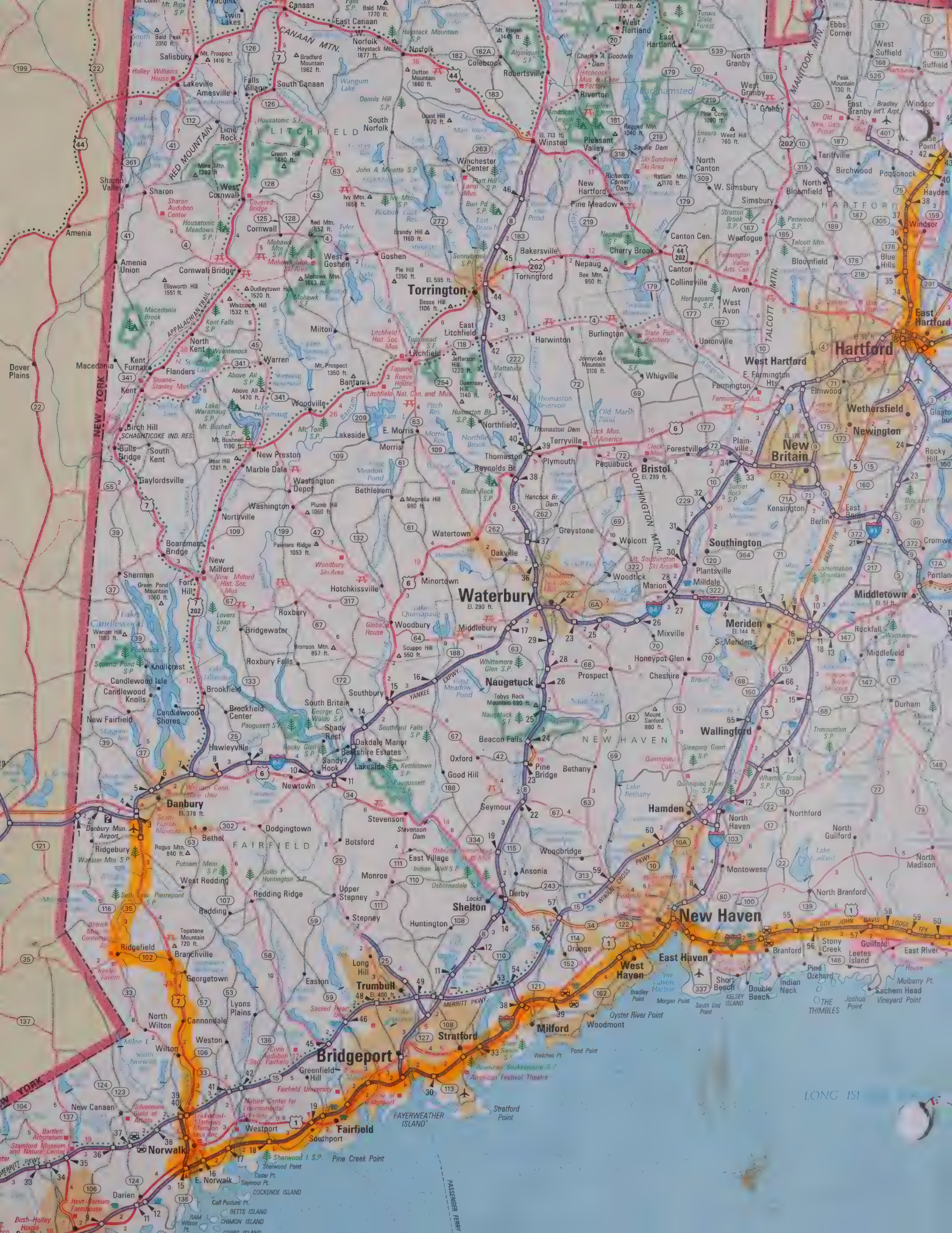
*This line is not complete as I do not have all the information such as when he married & who. But it interested me to learn how the Fitch family married into the Bradford family & how the Mason married into the Fitch family - not enough eligible*

*wrong John  
wrong gen*

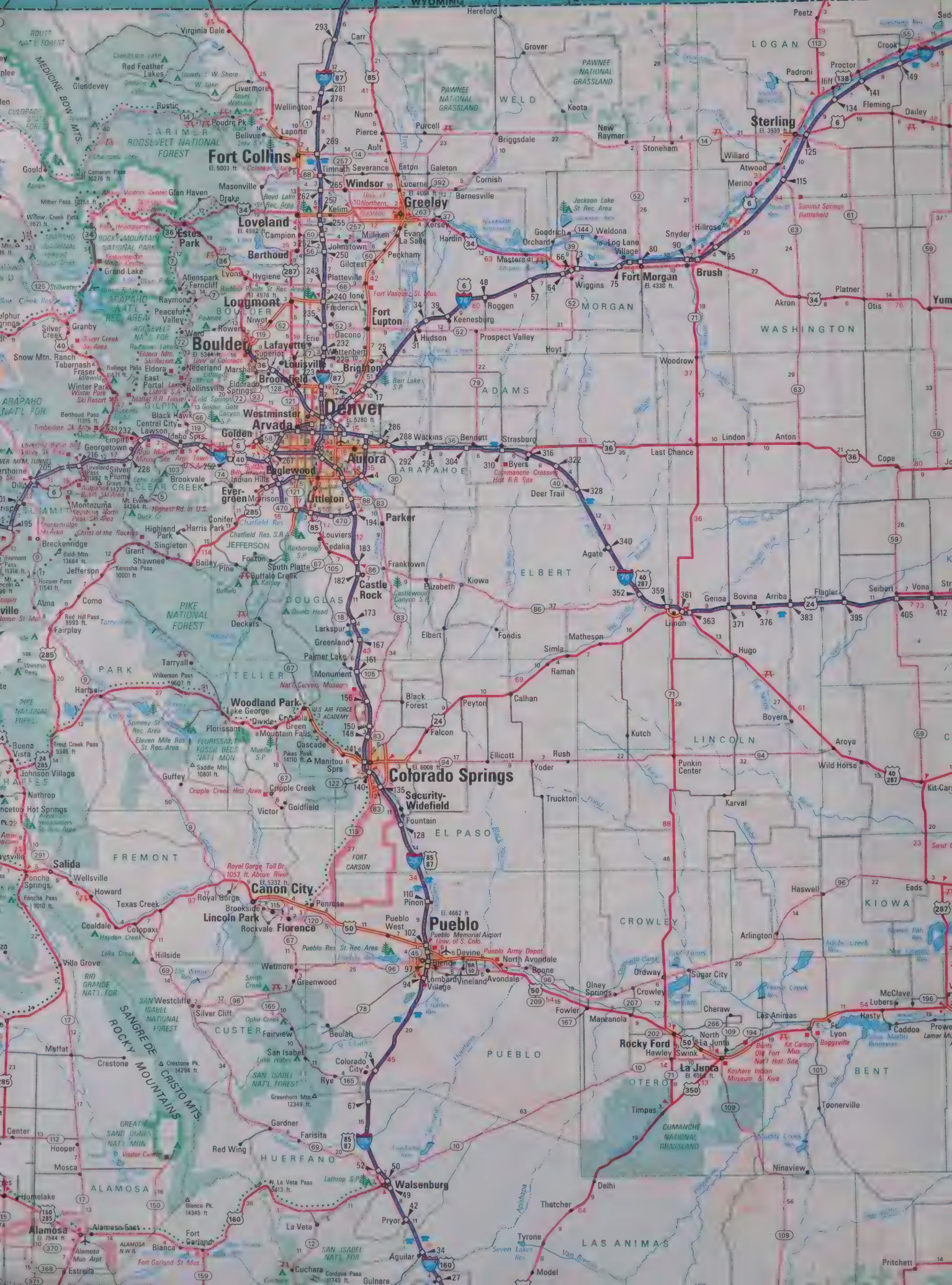










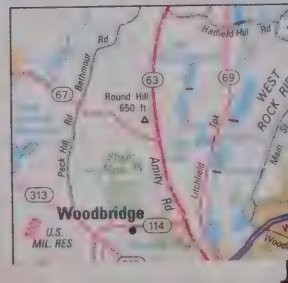
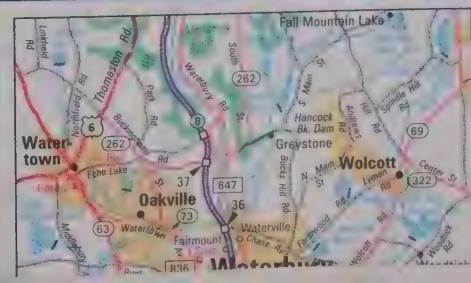
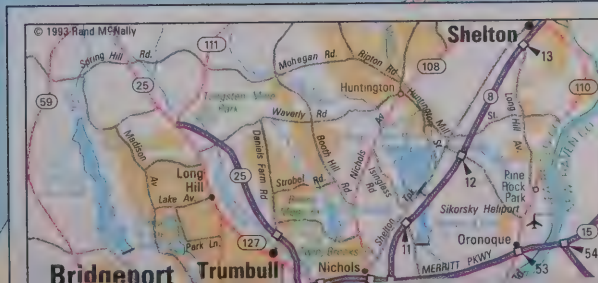




The TRAIL of OUR  
TRIP in 1996













no one buried there except for Thomas Fitch, the Governor, or Col. Thomas Fitch and we got pictures of the tombstone from the library. We would have had to exit 95 and find it and then get back on so just went on our way. The man at the library gave us a cemetery inscription book to go through and we could find no other Fitch's we wanted to check on. There are other cemeteries here I am sure. That was just the one that the governor was in.

Actually in the 6 we looked through there were no other Fitches. What did they do with them??? I suggested a pine box in the back yard. Very frugal people.

So we went on to Guilford where Abigail Whitfield lived, tho married Rev. James Fitch and had his first bunch of children, the ones born in Saybrook. The Whitfield house is the oldest stone house in Connecticut. It has been renovated and restored but some of it is original and has been made into a museum with furnishings of the 17th century, and 18th century. Loved it!!! We took the tour and I think Warren even liked it. I took a few pictures and then bought some post cards and books and a Whitfield family genealogy chart. Time to move on.

We had run into much highway construction which slowed traffic around New Haven, Conn., but it was better from Guilford to Saybrook. Guilford was having a fair but all we saw were the signs. Probably would have been a fun thing, but time to move on if we are to find a room before dark tonight!

One of the things I found disappointing was that I thought we would be able to see Long Island Sound from the highway most of the way along the coast on 95, but that is not so. We had a rare glimpse of it. At New Haven we saw the New Haven Harbor but that was it. The road is so built as to be low I guess, and with trees on both sides it was impossible to see the water even when we thought we were close to it.

So we arrived in Saybrook about 4 pm their time (which is what we are living on by this time). Could not find the Days Inn or any other motel so we finally went to an Ames Shopping Center and I called from a phone booth. The Days Inn was full. We were too late, so they referred me to a Liberty Inn and so I called them. Yes, they had one room left at \$78 and that was all. So we tried to find them. After getting lost a couple of times again (even with aid of a man in a carpet store there) we finally found it and they still had the room so we didn't have to sleep in the car! Although I had brought pillows in case of such an emergency.

After carting our stuff from the car up to the 2nd floor (which would be a common thing after this) I decided that I really wanted to see the water and Saybrook is on the water so we took the jaunt, (only making the trip up and down the road a couple of times) I tried to follow the motel girl's instructions and they were not right or I had written them down wrong so finally we did what Warren felt was right, and he was, and we finally made it.

*Trip Notes*





On the way, we stopped for some cheese dip and chips. I still had crackers. I also needed gallon plastic bags in which to organize our stuff that was a growing pile. So far we had found no major grocery stores in this state. In fact, we had seen none and only a few small groceries. The one we did stop at was a small meat market with a few groceries on the side. We began to wonder if these people eat who live here -- or that they must hide the stores off in a corner somewhere off the beaten path so the tourists must go to the restaurants!! They certainly have to have grocery stores somewhere. We are not the fish eating type or we probably could have found a lot of those places. We noticed that in the towns, they try to make all of their houses look old, just like the old ones and it is hard to tell which is really old and which is just made to look old. We did not see any of those 7-gable ones like we are building in Indiana. I had one motel man tell me later when asking about things like KFC and McDonalds that they did hide them somewhat and you had to find the right part of town to get to them. Probably for the sake of their local businesses.

Well, we finally found Saybrook Point. We saw the gulls and the swans in the water. They are friendly and want to be fed. The water is beautiful at this point with boats and all. Saybrook Monument Park was also here, but nothing about Rev. James. We saw the First Christ's Church which he probably was the pastor of as it was 350 years old (not the building, of course, but the congregation). Would like to go by it again in the morning and get some pictures. It was getting too dark tonight and I had not found anywhere that was selling post cards of this place. That is another thing that is very hard to find on this trip. Usually the best place is some sort of gift shop that goes with a major attraction, but what I find as an attraction in these smaller places is not necessarily considered the thing that most people want to see. Filling stations out West always carried a good supply, but here they do not.

So we came back to the Liberty Inn to munch on our goodies and watch a ball game.



Saturday, September 21, 1996 .. We were up pretty early. It was another sunny and delightful day. About 75 degrees. We went down by the old church so I could get some pictures and so I did that. Then there was a "tag" sale (the same as our garage sales) on the lawn right beside it and so I wanted to stop. Warren knew that I would. It was in front of a big old house. I bought a few pieces of milk glass, 2 pairs of crystal candleholders, and a doll. The doll was not old, but just a porcelain one like I pick up sometimes. She was \$3 and had all her clothes and looked in pretty good shape.' That was fun. Their prices seemed cheaper for glassware than we have in Indiana because I paid 25¢ and 50¢ for those that I bought.

Then it was time to be on our way. We were sure we would find a McDonalds somewhere out there for breakfast, but found none until we came to Norwichtown about 10:15 and so we were still in time for breakfast. It was right on Town Street, the historic, historic center of town, but at the time we did not know that. We were no doubt eating our breakfast on Rev. James's property!

We went off to find the motel called Norwich Motel by the ads and to see if we could get in there as it was very near. They had a room (1st floor, of course) for a change. They only had one floor. We were too early to put our things in the motel, but we paid for it. I picked up some brochures telling about this part of Norwich and it is the real Norwich, the one that Rev. James founded so this was what we wanted to see. We found out later that this was called "bean hill" and that was because they would all head up here for their Saturday or Friday night suppers and would have the beans cooking all day for it.

So we went back to the town green, brochures in hand, and I had seen the numbers of the houses on Town Street in John T. Fitch's book, but could not remember them and as the book was packed in one of our suitcases we did the best we could. But knew that Rev. James and John Mason both had homes on the green and on Town Street. There is a big house called the "Mason House" used I think as a home for children. Or at least it was at one time. At the church Warren went to the top of "Meeting House Rocks" for a looksee over the town where they held church to be a place of protection against the Indians in the days of the Indian raids. Don't believe they were bothered much in Norwich, but they had to be careful. The way up was very steep and so I did not make the trip. Warren came down to get my camera and went back up again to get some pictures for me.

Then there was the Leffingwell House and Museum that I wanted to see but it had a sign that it was closed for the day and would be opened tomorrow. So we decided to make the trip to Lebanon today. At least we did not get lost. And found another sale on the way. I just bought a little dish and that was it. We found the green, the church, and the cemetery. Also I went through the Jonathan Trumbull house and the Dr. Beaumont House. Warren was tired and stayed in the car for this tour. The lady of the house said there is a history of Lebanon and gave me the paper to order it if I wanted too. Rev. James was only there a couple years or less and he died, but several of the kids stayed there and died there so it might be interesting.





The cemetery is really impressive. It is the Jonathan Trumbull Cemetery and is on a hill. At places the stones seem to go around the hill just like a big congregation awaiting the return of the Lord and all facing the same way. Some here in Indiana face the East but are in rows and these rows seem to go around the hill. It is all surrounded by a stone fence.

We found Rev. James's tombstone but it is impossible to read. However I knew it was his by the pictures I had seen of it. It is all in Latin anyway. Found some other Fitches there and took some photos and hope to coordinate them later when they are developed. I hope I can read them then. I found Nathaniel, Joseph, and Jabez. And Nathaniel's two wives, Ann and Mindwell. So it will be an adventure just going through the photos. John T. Fitch has James's inscription translated in his book.

Finally back to Norwichtown and by this time we could check into the motel so rested a bit. Cleaned out the car and sacks and boxes that have been accumulating, went back to the green again using our pamphlet to guide us (had found better information) and to the old cemetery down "Cemetery Lane" right in the center of town. There are probably no Fitch's buried here as most of them moved away and were buried at Lebanon or other places. Then we went off to the shopping center and bought cold meat, grapes, buns and mustard for our own feast in the motel. Most of the mall was already closed as it was after 6 pm, but still had Caldor's and Shop and Stop open. Caldor's is like a Target and Shop and Stop is the grocery store and this one was a good one. So guess these folks do eat too. They say the weather is to change and we are to have clouds and rain tomorrow. We watched a couple movies until midnight.





Sunday, September 22, 1996 .. Woke up about 6:30, the latest I have slept on the whole trip. It was quite foggy early but cleared and was just cloudy when we left the motel. We had decided we would go to the Congregational Church, which was the 1st church of Norwich. I am not sure it was named that when Rev. James brought his congregation from Saybrook to start this one, but it definitely was the first church here and the one he started. A small group, mostly all of which had gone there for most of their lives. The pastor was nice and friendly as were the people, but would say they are probably on the liberal side perhaps. His sermon was on "church celebrations" and what really "rallies" them all together. I tend to feel sorry for those who have not experienced what we have and it makes me feel thankful to have been in our worship services. But am sure those people love the Lord too. They have just celebrated the Fair and Colonial Days and guess they do a lot of good works. Probably 60 or so there including the children. Thought the pastor did say they are going to confirm 14 of high school age soon. Probably just 8th graders going into high school.

They have historical things in the church. A photo of the old church (this is the fourth one since Rev. James) and a replica of Rev. James tombstone. Just a part of the headpiece with the angel carved into it. Done by a historian who just didn't happen to come to church today. This was all in the hall next to the church and they use it for a fellowship hall. They were having coffee and cookies there today, so we went over and talked with some of the people. We were rather celebrities as we said Warren was a descendant of Rev. James and guess that impressed them as it doesn't happen too often. So the pastor introduced us as such. *Now that*

*ended up being a lie, didn't it?*

One of the older ladies said that the town is not what it used to be and part of that is because of the Indian Gambling Hall that has been put in and they are getting rich and buying into everything they can. Don't think she meant that as a discriminatory statement, but the fact that gambling always brings with it a downfall of the general population and their morals. Later in the day I heard the same statement from the Leffingwell guide who said "Oh Norwich, how far you have fallen"! The pastor went and got us one of the old-type bulletins that they had had on their anniversary and gave it to us. Guess it was just last week that they had their fair and colonial days. We were just a little too late. That would have been fun too.

We had gone to McDonalds for breakfast. At least Warren did. I had fixed me a sandwich with the leftover cold meat for breakfast. I didn't want it to spoil and so I was not hungry for breakfast at McDonalds. I walked around the square. After finding the number of James house, #86 (I had checked the John T. Fitch book) I took several pictures of it. The lot was the one right next to McDonalds so had visited it before, but not remembering what number I was looking for. It (the house) is now being used for an attorney's office. Of course, it never really was Rev. James house. We can only imagine what his might have looked like sitting across from the green.





After church was over we went to the Leffinwell Inn for a tour and it turned out to be a very personal tour for us because the tour director had only us at the time. He let us in early because a film crew was setting up to film a documentary for PBS. I hope we get to see it. They were to film on Monday. So he let us in early and gave us a personal tour. I even got to take pictures which is prohibited. But since we were alone, and a relative of Rev. James, he was extra nice to us. His name was Adams and is a relative of Samuel Adams the patriot, and says somewhere there is a Fitch in his background, but is not sure just where it is. He showed us around and we talked about Rev. James and he sold me a Norwich History book by Caulkins. This is a reprint of an old one, of course. There was another by Mrs. Perkins that I would have liked to have, but it was \$60 so I had to say "no" to that one. The house is very impressive and all the old things. A lovely room of old dolls upstairs that I went back up and took pictures later. He referred us to a bookstore that was right across from our motel and he is the one who told us about "bean hill". I was still looking for the book on the history of Norwalk. But when we got there she was not there and so I have her address and can write to her to see if she has it. But I didn't get to see what other books she might have. They had a "library" of Norwich history books in the Leffingwell Inn and they are open to researchers but cannot be taken out of the library, of course. We saw the books and must have been a couple hundred of them available for use.

It was Mr. Adams that told us about the "King's boards" and showed us some in the Leffingwell Inn that were wider than they were to be so some rebels lived there!! He also told us that in it's day, Norwich was one of the greatest cities in America. One of the top five I think he said in size and output of items. Had the best clockmakers and he showed the three clocks that had been made right there in town. It was called the "Jewel of America" it was so rich and so beautiful. And then was when he said "Oh Norwich, how far you have fallen!".

We felt like we had seen the best part of Norwich, which was the old town. We did not even go uptown in modern Norwich, because we felt we did not have the time. It was after 2 pm and time to leave Rev. James hometown and head toward Boston, our next stop. We had called last night and made reservations for the Super 8 at Marlborough. We actually stayed there for two nights. It is new, nice, and less expensive than some we have been in. So we drove from Norwich to Marlborough MA to the motel and although we had to make two tries at it when we found the right exit, we were right there at the motel.

After resting a little we went out to Solomon's Pond Mall, which is by far the largest thing we have come across on this trip. It is bigger than Glenbrook and two stories high and had a very large food court. They had Arby's so we had familiar food. We walked around a little and I came across a bookstore that was wonderful. I almost bought a book on Fostoria, but I thought I had better save my money for history books on this trip. That book will be available in Ft. Wayne probably.





It had begun raining shortly after we left Norwich and it was light for most of the trip, but by the time we got to Marlborough it was raining hard and continued all evening. We got wet going into the mall. The rain always makes the driving and getting around much harder, especially in places where we are unfamiliar with the roads and streets, etc. Warren was a little uptight, driving in the rain and I think all the driving in unknown spots was hard on him. I didn't notice it at first, but later on I noticed it more and more. Maybe, it was just the navigator, that was the problem. Me, that is. I usually didn't know the right place to turn even with the map!!

We called Bill Cassese to see if he might be home in the morning if we should stop by. He said "yes" he would be home in the morning. So guess we will try to find him. We watched "The West" until we were sleepy. I had set our recorder to tape the first 3 episodes of it at home, but this was further down the line. I hadn't realized it was going to be on for 12 different episodes so will miss a lot of it I guess.





BARBARA C. LONG

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Rev. James Fitch  | Abigail Whitefield                          |
| 2. Major James Fitch | Alice (Bradford) Adams                      |
| 3. Daniel Fitch      | Anne Cook                                   |
| 4. William Fitch     | Mary Paine                                  |
| 5. Anna Fitch        | 1. Nathaniel Lathrop<br>2. Jonathan Hascall |
| 6. Alice Hascall     | Isaac Baldwin, Jr.                          |
| 7. Alcian Baldwin    | John Cherry                                 |
| 8. Emily Cherry      | Lawrence W. Bruce                           |
| 9. Adelaide Bruce    | William Chandler                            |
| 10. Charles Chandler | Fanny Hammond                               |
| 10. Mary Chandler    | Malcolm Crew                                |
| 11. Barbara Crew     | James Long                                  |



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E-Mail:JKLBL@AOL.com

BARBARA C. LONG  
12555 Valley View Dr  
Chesterland, OH 44026

November 24, 1996

Betty L. Fitch  
14615 Auburn Rd  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Dear Betty,

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter of Oct. 31st, but I waited until I could go to the Western Reserve Historical Society Library in Cleveland (where I do my research) to see if I could find some common links of your Nathaniel/John Fitch to other Fitches who lived in the Wyoming Valley at the same time. I did not come up with anything specific, unfortunately, but I will share with you what I have. Maybe between the information that each of us have, you might find, at some time, some clue to your Fitch line.

First as to my line: my **Anna Fitch** was born 1 July 1742 in Canterbury (Windham) CT, dau of **William-4** (**Daniel-3**, **James-2**, **Rev. James-1**) Fitch. **Anna married** (1) 5 Apr 1759 at Canterbury, **Nathaniel Lathrop**, son of Benjamin, who died 30 Apr 1762 at Canterbury. Anna had 2 sons by him, Benjamin (18 Feb 1760) and Lebbeus (24 Oct 1761) Lathrop. **Anna then married** (2) my ancestor, **Jonathan Hascall** born 13 Apr 1735 at Killingly CT, son of Squire-4 (John-3, John-2 Roger-1) Haskell. Jonathan and Anna were members of a party from CT who moved to **"Lackaway" PA** (now in Pike Co on the Wallenpaupak river) in the Wyoming Valley in 1773 - early settlers of this area. Jonathan was a Lt. in the militia of that area and was killed 22 July 1779 at the Battle of Minisink (Orange Co NY) on the Delaware river across the river from PA. Anna and her family apparently remained the in Orange Co NY area (and/or went with her son Lebbeus Lothrop to Brookfield NY) after Jonathan died, but she returned to CT where she married (3) 1 Apr 1784 at Hanover church, Lisbon CT, Nathaniel Bishop. He died 1797, but I don't when she died. Anna and Jonathan Hascall had 2 children born in Thompson CT, Hannah (17 Mar 1759) and John (3 Jan 1763) at Thompson CT. I know that there were more children (including my ancestor, Alice Hascall) and that's what I am trying to trace.

But enough of the Hascalls. Are you familiar with the book by Charles Miner, *History of Wyoming* (Bowie Md: Heritage Books 1991 reprint, original in 1845)? Since your family lived in that





area at that time, you might find it interesting reading. I own my own copy. I checked the index for Fitch, and came up with 4 men of that name who lived in the Wyoming Valley during the late 1770s. Unfortunately there were none by the name of John. In case you don't already have this info, here it is:

Lemuel Fitch: captured by Indians Nov 1777

Samuel Fitch: a proprietor of Charlestown twp in the Susquehanna Purchase, June 1772

Jonathan Fitch: high sheriff of Westmoreland Co for several years, including 1781; removed to Binghamton NY in 1789

Col. Elizur Fitch possibly Gov. of CT in 1761; was at the treaty with the Six Nations (indians) Jan 1755

At the Library, I checked the Fitch references there; again, nothing on your John, son of Nathaniel. I did find info on the last 2 Fitch mentioned above, in Harvey, Oscar J: *A History of Wilkes-Barre and the Wyoming Valley* (Wilkes-Barre 1909).

Jonathan Fitch (Vol II:910): Sheriff of Westmoreland Co for 5 yrs, including 1776. Representative for the town of Westmoreland to the General Assembly of Ct 1780, 1781, 1782; to Binghamton NY 1789.

Eleazur Fitch (Vol I:448): born Lebanon CT 27 Aug 1726, son of Joseph and Anne (Whiting) Fitch; attended Yale; became a merchant in Lebanon CT; later removed to Windham; mar 4 Apr 1746 Amy Bowen of Providence CT; 1750 was Lt. in the CT militia; 1755, Major; was in the CT Reg't sent against Crown Point; 1756 Lt. Col; 1758 Col. of the 4th CT Reg't; loyalist; moved to Nova Scotia; d Montreal 23 June 1796.

Sorry that I don't have the info you are seeking on your John and Nathaniel Fitch, but I'll keep looking. You asked how I came to be in Ohio. Actually, it's a long story. Briefly, Alice Hascall (dau/Jonathan and Anna) married Isaac Baldwin Jr (the Baldwin family also were from Canterbury CT who went to the Wyoming Valley). Isaac fought with Gen Sullivan in the Battle of Newton NY (to eradicate the Indians from the PA/NY area). Newton is near Elmira NY, and Isaac and Alice settled there after the Rev. War. Their dau Alcina Baldwin married John Cherry and they moved to Highland Co Ohio. My descent is:

Jonathan and Anna (Fitch) Hascall

Alice Hascall and Isaac Baldwin Jr

Alcina Baldwin and John Cherry

Emily Cherry and Lawrence W. Bruce

Adelaide Eliza Bruce and William Henry Chandler

Charles Chandler and Fanny Hammond

Mary Hammond Chandler and Malcolm Crew

Barbara Crew and James K. Long

William Henry Chandler moved to central Ohio in the Columbus area and the family lived there until my mother went to Montevideo, Uruguay to teach in an American school. There she met my father,





who is of English descent, and married him. They lived in Montevideo for several years (I was born there in 1926). We moved to Santiago, Chile in 1932 and I grew up there. I came to the U.S. to go to college (Ohio Wesleyan U.), met my husband Jim, a navy boy who was stationed at the university for a while during WW II. After the war, we were married, lived in Philadelphia for several years until he was transferred to Cleveland. We have lived here ever since.

I'm sure that all the Fitch of New England are descended from the same family, so I hope that you will find your link. If I can be of any help to you, let me know.

Sincerely,

*Barbara*



\$2.50

# GOUSHA

# HARTFORD

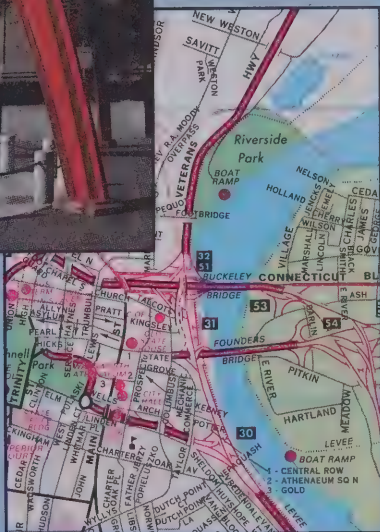
C O N N E C T I C U T

## CITY MAP



**INCLUDING**  
Avon, Bloomfield,  
Bristol, Burlington,  
Canton, East Granby,  
East Hartford, East  
Windsor, Enfield,  
Farmington,  
Glastonbury,  
Granby, Hartland,  
Manchester,  
New Britain, Newington,  
Plainville, Rocky Hill,  
Simsbury,  
South Windsor,  
Suffield, West Hartford,  
Wethersfield, Windsor,  
Windsor Locks, and  
adjoining communities.

**PLUS** highway map  
of Hartford and  
Surrounding Area.







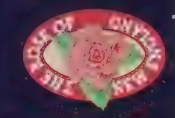


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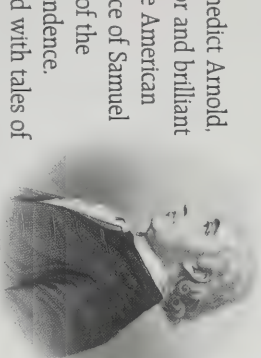
Norwich  
CONNECTICUT



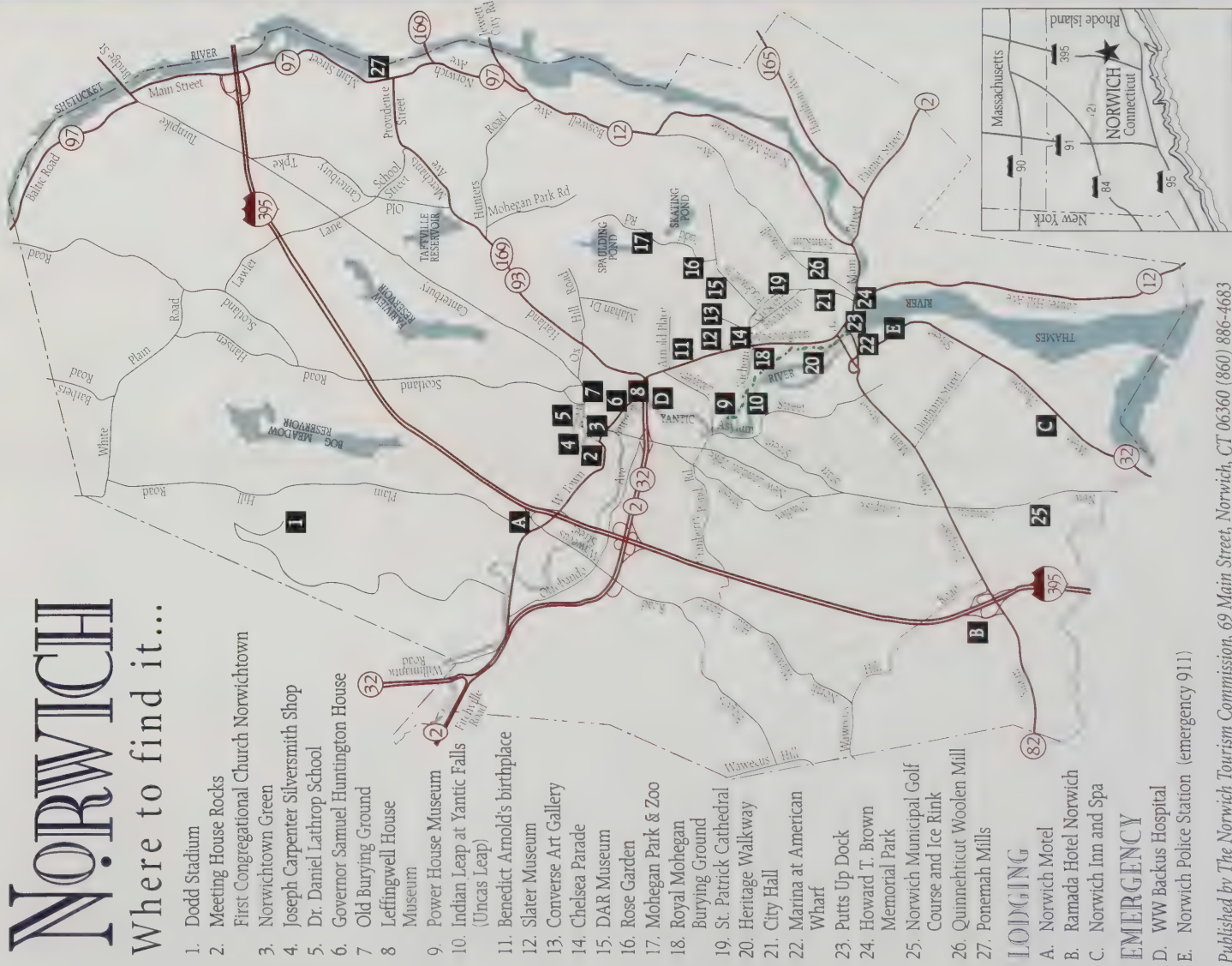
THE • ROSE • OF • NEW • ENGLAND

Architecture, carefully preserved, represents three distinct periods in American history...the American Revolution, pre-Civil War, and Victorian. Self-guided architectural walking tour brochures are available through the Tourism Office.

Birthplace of Benedict Arnold, infamous traitor and brilliant strategist of the American Revolution. Burial place of Samuel Huntington, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Norwich's past is filled with tales of Indian battles, revolutionary intrigue, and Yankee ingenuity.



City Hall, located in the center of Norwich, makes a grand statement with an ornate Second Empire facade. Built in 1870, the recently restored Council Chambers and many of the original furnishings are on display. This landmark is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and still serves as the seat of Norwich's city government.



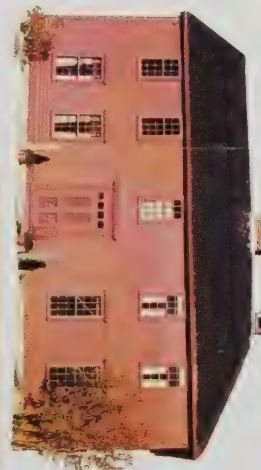
Published by The Norwich Tourism Commission, 69 Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360 (860) 886-4683

Downtown is known as Chelsea, where the breathtaking panorama of Norwich's hills are dotted with buildings of every genre and can be viewed at any time of year. "The Rose of New England," the name given to Norwich in the 19th Century by abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher. He compared the hills to the petals of a rose. It remains the City's second name: the rose, its symbol.



Enjoy outdoor and indoor concerts, theatrical and musical performances, art exhibits, country fairs, antique shops, flea markets, craft shows...and more.

Festivals, held throughout the year, afford family fun and entertainment. They include major events such as the Chelsea Street Festival in May; Rose Arts Festival in June; Antique Auto Show in July; Harbor Day in August; Historic Norwichtown Days; Taste of Italy; and Grecian Food Festival in September; and Christmas City in December.



Golf lovers appreciate Norwich's Municipal Golf Course complete with club house, restaurant, and deck overlooking the rolling hills. Miniature golf fans can try their talents at Putts Up Dock, situated in Chelsea Landing. Driving ranges are also available for golfing enthusiasts.

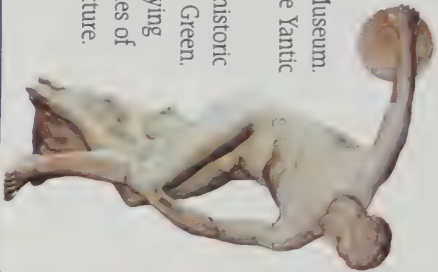
History is alive in Norwich. First settled three hundred years ago, Norwich was built on lands purchased from Uncas, Chief of the Mohegans. By the time of the American Revolution, it was the twelfth largest city in the American colonies. At the turn of the twentieth century, more millionaires made their homes in the Norwich area than anywhere else in New England, primarily due to the abundance of river waterpower, which helped industry thrive. An interesting collection of Norwich historical memorabilia is displayed at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum on Rockwell Street.





If you're looking for a new indoor public rink offers refreshing recreation and will inspire future U.S. Olympians. This public rink has skate rental and reservation of rink time for private functions.

Journey along the Heritage Riverfront Walkway and Park to the Power House Museum. The trail follows the path of the Yantic River and winds through quiet neighborhoods. Walk through historic Norwichtown with its Colonial Green, Meeting House Rocks, Old Burying Grounds, and exquisite examples of 17th and 18th Century architecture.



Old Burying Grounds, with entrances from Old Cemetery Lane and the gates on East Town Street, will interest genealogists and admirers of the tombstone carvers' art. Governor Samuel Huntington, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Hannah Arnold, mother of Benedict Arnold, are buried here. Located near the Lowthorpe Meadows, the 18th Century cemetery is a tranquil sanctuary in which to ponder New England's past.

Ponemah Mills, completed in 1871, is believed to have been the largest cotton mill complex in the world. The mill complex, and surrounding village in Taftville, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A reminder of our industrial beginnings, the structure alone is worth a visit to Norwich.

# NORWICH

Kaleidoscope...Experience changing seasons no matter when you visit. Spring flowers in brilliant bursts of color welcome visitors...rows of cherry blossoms on the Norwich Free Academy campus, daffodils and tulips in City parks, and the fragrance of roses fill the air. Summer shade can be found along tree-lined avenues, and the waterfront takes on a new life. Autumn's resplendent colors greet you in the crisp fall. Blanketed by freshly falling snow, Norwich becomes a winter wonderland.

Leffingwell House Museum, an authentically restored Colonial house is open for tours. Locally made pieces of furniture are on display in a parlor, bedroom, and kitchen. Home of early industrialist Christopher Leffingwell, who established the first paper mill in Connecticut. It also served as an inn and as a meeting place for patriots during the American Revolution.



Mohegan park, rich in natural beauty, is located on 385 acres of woodlands and offers recreation facilities, game fields, walking trails, pavilions with tables and benches, outdoor grills, children's playgrounds, rustic gazebos, and a petting zoo.

Norwich Navigators bring the excitement of professional baseball at its very best to Dodd Stadium. Our AA affiliate of the New York Yankees calls Norwich home. Team mascot, Tater the Gator, greets the fans and delights the younger spectators. The Navigators offer affordable family fun throughout the baseball season.

Quinnipiac (the original Native American name for Connecticut) Woolen Mill is located in Chelsea. The company manufactures hand-knitting yarn from the fleece of New England sheep, carding it on a machine built in 1919. Visitors to the mill can observe how the process was done years ago and watch the yarn being spun.

Rose Garden on Rockwell Street in Mohegan Park, situated on two acres of gently sloping parkland, features 2,500 rose bushes in 120 varieties. This garden is one of 140 gardens throughout the United States that displays award winning roses in cooperation with the All-American Rose Selections, Inc. The roses are at their full height during June but continue to bloom throughout the summer.

Slater Memorial Museum, located on the campus of the Norwich Free Academy, offers art lovers a view of Michelangelo's Pietà and Moses, as well as the Winged Victory and Venus de Milo. Dedicated in 1888, Slater Memorial Museum is one of only two fine arts museums in the United States located on a high school campus. The museum houses 145 plaster-cast replicas of some of the world's greatest Greek, Roman, and Renaissance figures. Within this complex is the Converse Art Gallery featuring changing exhibits and the new Gaultieri Children's Gallery. Also included are works of Oriental, African, Native American, and Colonial art.

Tennis anyone? Norwich's public tennis clay courts are located throughout the city and are brightly lit for night play.

Uncas Leap, also called Indian Leap, at the Yantic Falls is the site where, according to legend, a fierce battle between the Mohegans and the Narragansetts culminated on September 17, 1643. Miantinomo, the Narragansett Chief, reputedly fled and was captured by Uncas' warriors on the bank of the Shetucket River. The influence and rich heritage of Native Americans is evident in the names of locations such as Yantic Falls, Wawecus Hill, Ponemah Mill, and Mohegan Park.



Victorian homes line the streets of Norwich's 19th Century neighborhoods. Elegant mansions, and housing built especially for mill employees, display the architectural elements popular during the Victorian era.

Waterfront attractions include restaurants, walking trails, miniature golf and bumper boats. The outstanding Marina at American Wharf provides over 200 slips with an array of dockside services, swimming pool, cafe restaurant, boutique shop, and nightly entertainment. Howard T. Brown Memorial Park hosts the summer band concerts and the annual Harbor Day celebration in August. A charming gazebo, benches, and gardens combine to make an unforgettable stop for a picnic at the water's edge.



Xtra attractions are just minutes away from Norwich. Antiquing, Aquarium, Beaches, Campgrounds, Charter and Fishing Boats, Factory Outlets, Foxwoods Resort & Casino, Gillette Castle, Eugene O'Neill Theater, Mohegan Sun Resort, Mystic Seaport and Shopping Village, Sailing, Submarines, Vineyards, and Whale Watching.

Winter celebrations include the illumination of City Hall, Snow Princess Pageant, a visit from Santa Claus, and area church services. During the 1930s, Norwich earned the title of "Christmas City" for its elaborately festive street decorations.

Too visits, available within Mohegan Park, provide an opportunity to view monkeys, arctic foxes, bobcats, peacocks, snakes, and farm animals. The zoo is open to the public year round. Admission is free.



For more information contact the  
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**(860) 886-4683**



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*Tourist Guide to Historic*

# Norwich

CONNECTICUT



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22

23

24

25

26



Due to the unusual numbering system in Metro Hartford, this map does not show house numbers.

FOR INDEX SEE REVERSE SIDE

# STREET MAP OF

## HARTFORD

SCALE OF MILES



- Controlled Access Dual Highways
- Other Dual Thoroughfares
- Principal Thorough Routes
- Secondary Thoroughfares
- Interchange Numbers
- One-way Streets
- Schools
- Points of Interest

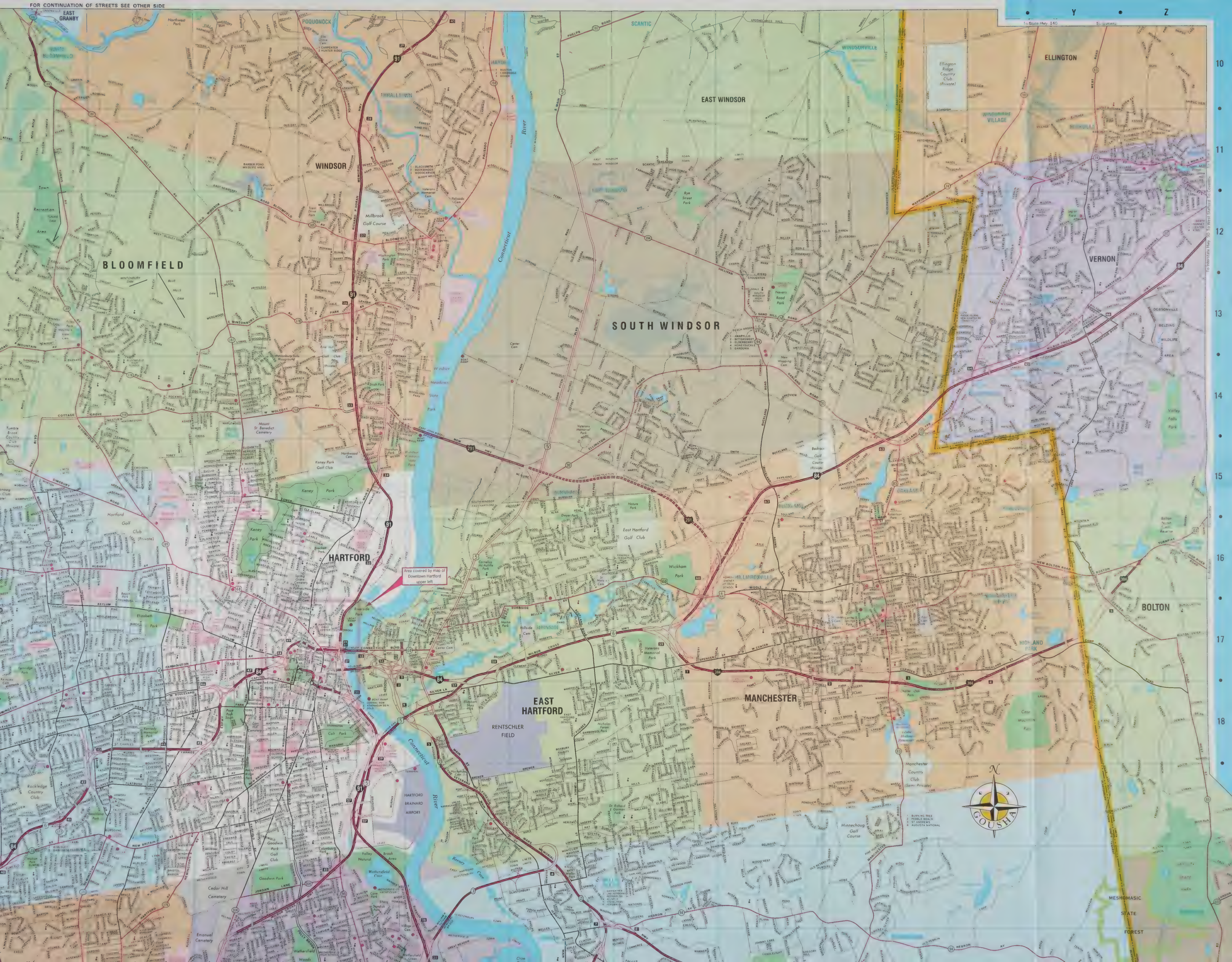
HIGHWAY MARKERS: 31 Interstate 6 United States 72 State



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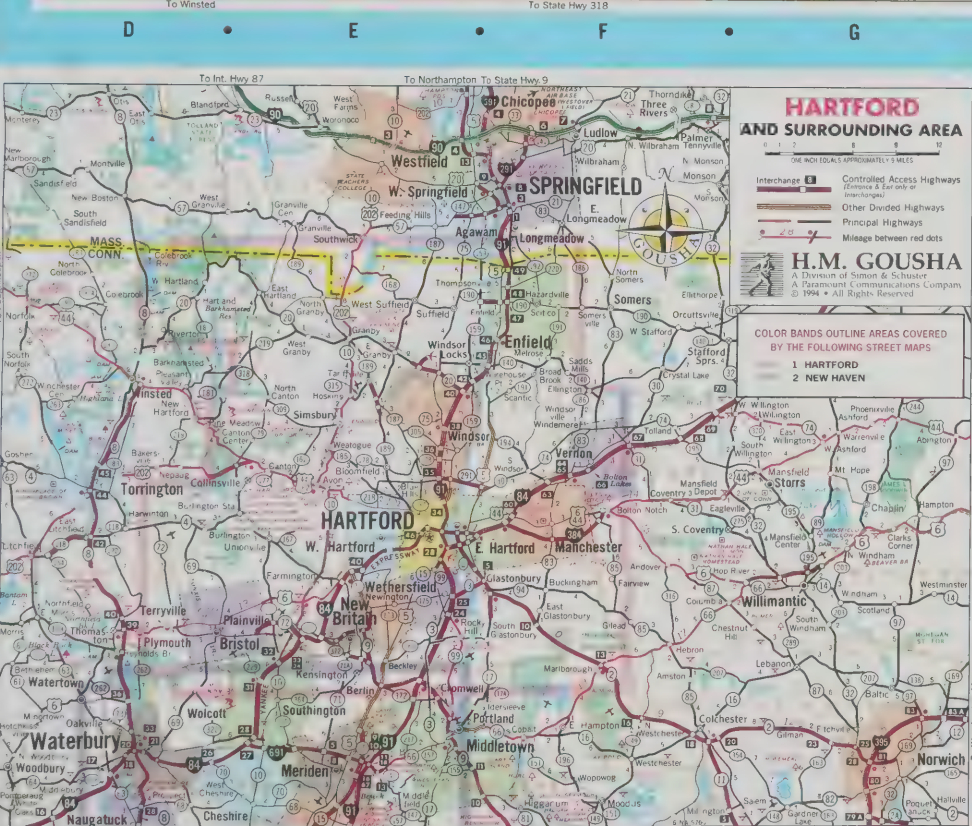
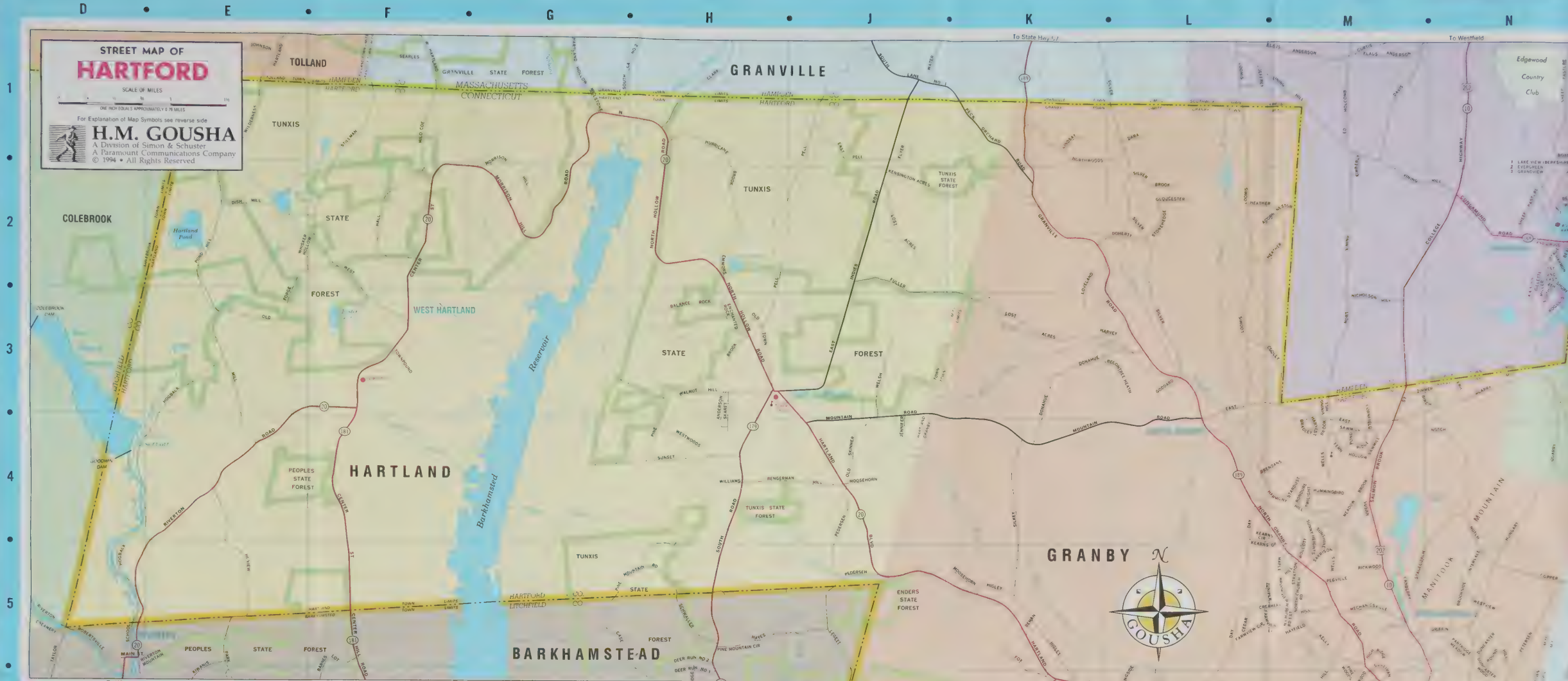












**Index to streets**  
**HARTFORD**  
and adjacent areas  
Population (within corporate limits) 139,739

USE MAP ABOVE AND ON REVERSE

A La	5-23	Ansonia	0-18	Babes Rd	01-02	Beckwith La	123-124	Black Rd	M23-M24	Brattle St	V18-V19	Burnham Rd	K18	Camp Rd	05-23	Chapin St	H-16	Clover St	R-13	Comy	4-15	Cummins Ave	8-26	Danvers	0-18	Deer Run Rd	1-17	Dix St	0-18	Dodge St	0-18	Dunham St	0-18	E. Hartford	0-18	Enfield	0-18	Forest	0-18	Granville	0-18	Hartford	0-18	Highway	0-18	Industrial	0-18	Interstate	0-18	Longmeadow	0-18	Manchester	0-18	Meriden	0-18	Middleton	0-18	Norwich	0-18	Plainville	0-18	Rocky Hill	0-18	Southampton	0-18	Southwick	0-18	Springfield	0-18	Torrington	0-18	Westfield	0-18	Windsor	0-18	Windsor Locks	0-18	Winsted	0-18	Waterbury	0-18	Watertown	0-18	Wethersfield	0-18	Willimantic	0-18	Wolcott	0-18	Woodbury	0-18	Yankee	0-18
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## 10. Mohegan Park

Mohegan Park is the largest and most unusual of Norwich's parks. It was developed from land deeded to the City of Norwich by private citizens between 1906 to 1923 and consists of 385 acres. The park is located geographically in the center of the City. The park is only accessible by four somewhat indirect routes that wind and curve through residential neighborhoods to reach the entrance of the park. The park is mostly untouched woodland over rocky terrain, with a narrow curving internal road pattern leading to Spaulding Pond and its adjacent zoo, play areas, picnic pavilions, small parking lots, and regionally famous rose garden.

## 11. Norwich Memorial Rose Garden

Norwich's Memorial Rose Garden had been for some time just a dream in the minds of members of the City Park Board. The garden, dedicated on July 11, 1948, is located on a gentle slope overlooking Rockwell Street, at the entrance of Mohegan Park. The grounds consist of approximately 2 acres with over 120 varieties of roses and approximately 2500 bushes. Winner of the 1992 All American Rose Award.

## 12. Norwich City Hall

Construction of the present City Hall commenced in 1870 and was completed in 1873 at a cost of \$250,000. The building was designed in the extravagant French Second Empire style, with its dramatic three dimensional architecture. The four-sided clock tower was added in 1909. The interior features a tall vestibule and large, open staircase. Much of it is decorated with original furnishings. The basement contains "dungeon-like" cells which once served as the city jail.

## 13. Howard T. Brown Memorial Park

The harbor area of Norwich is graced with an expanse of grass and elegant gazebo. Situated near the deepest point of the Thames River harbor, this "green area" was created in cooperation with the city to recognize two of Norwich's philanthropist citizens, Howard T. and Elsie A. Brown. Through their legacy, a fund was established to aid in the completion of projects which would benefit all of Norwich's residents. Completed in 1986, it is maintained by the city's Parks & Grounds Department. Located adjacent to the marina, Brown park hosts several events including the summer concert series, Chowder and Harbor Day festivals. The park will connect with Norwich's own Heritage Walkway (which is a part of Connecticut's National Heritage Corridor).



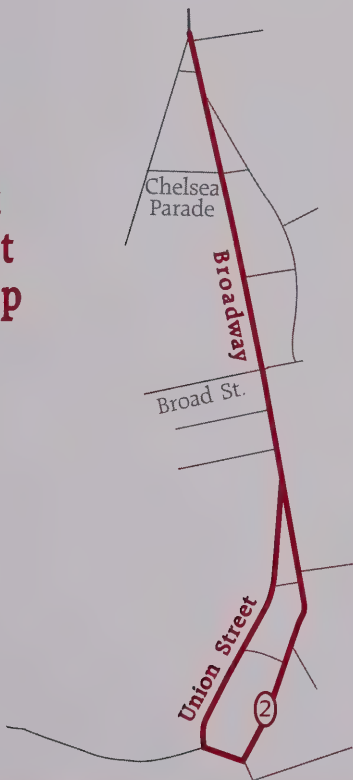
## The Latham Science and Information Center - Lafayette Foster House - c. 1850s

The original structure of this building was the home of Lafayette Foster, who, as the leader of the United States Senate, became Vice President when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. In 1953, the Norwich Free Academy transformed the house into the Norton-Peck Library. The building has since become part of the



Latham Science and Information Center. The center was named for Allen Latham, Sr., who taught science at the Academy from 1902 - 1919. His son, Allen Latham, Jr., an alumnus of the Class of 1926, donated \$1 million in honor of his father to further scientific studies at the Academy. Completed in the fall of 1993, the state-of-the-art facility includes four laboratories, a computerized writing lab, and extensive library. **Italianate** - Recognizing that the Foster House is both an architecturally and historically significant part of Norwich's heritage, N.F.A. officials dedicated themselves to maintaining and refurbishing the buildings Italianate features. Note the rose and bees in the stained glass window over the front entrance.

## Broadway & Union Street Walking Map



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# Welcome to Historic Norwich, Connecticut

## 1. First Congregational Church

The present First Congregational Church of Norwich is actually the fifth church to be built. The first meeting house was built in 1660 and stood at the southeast corner of the Green. A decade and a half later another church was built at the summit of the Meeting House Rocks and served as a lookout against Indian raids during the King Philip War. Two subsequent churches below the Rocks were destroyed by fire and the cornerstone for the present church was laid in 1801 by General Ebenezer Huntington. Extensive remodeling was undertaken in 1845 and maintenance remains a priority. Outdoor chapel services are still held near the Meeting House Rocks.

## 2. Leffingwell House Museum

Stephen Backus built the original house about 1675. In 1700 Ensign Thomas Leffingwell purchased the property and the following year was given permission "to keep a publicque house of entertainment for strangers." Mary Bushnell Leffingwell had rooms allotted for the "care of the sick in the community" after her husband passed away. She left the house to her son, Benajah Leffingwell. His son, Colonel Christopher, inherited the home and hosted General George Washington who was visiting the state to seek aid for the Continental Army. The Society of the Founders moved the building from its original location when the building of Routes 2 and 32 threatened its destruction. Restoration efforts are on going. Today the Leffingwell House Museum is considered one of the finest restored examples of New England's colonial architecture. Open during the summer and by appointment.

## 3. Samuel Huntington House

This large two story structure was built by Samuel Huntington in 1783. The structure has been extensively remodeled; only the central dwelling with the corner pilasters are original. The large open porch with four round

supporting columns and the gabled roof in the center front of the house are the most "modern features."

Governor Samuel Huntington, one of the most distinguished citizens of Norwich, was born on July 3, 1732 in Scotland Connecticut. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence while seated in the Continental Congress of 1776 and was later elected president of the Continental Congress. In 1786, he was elected Governor of Connecticut and served for ten years until his death in 1796.

## 4. Norwich Free Academy

The Norwich Free Academy is a privately governed, endowed, regional independent high school. It is the second largest high school in Connecticut and is the only high school serving public secondary students in the United States that has an art museum on campus. From the time of its establishment in 1856, NFA has offered free education to all students, except for an incidentals charge.

## 5. The Slater Museum

On November 4, 1886, The Slater Memorial Museum was dedicated. This three story structure of Romanesque design was a gift of William A Slater, in memory of his father, John Fox Slater and was built to house a collection of Greek, Roman and Renaissance casts (including Michelangelo's Pieta and Moses) and an auditorium.

Over the years, the museum has continued to grow through generous bequests and the character of its collection has broadened to encompass many different areas of artistic achievements. The collection now includes American and European art and furniture from the 17th through the 20th century, American Indian artifacts, the Vanderpoel Collection of Oriental art, African art, gun collection, Egyptian art objects, textiles, and the Joseph Gualtieri Children's Museum. Through a bequest in the will of Colonel Charles A. Converse, the Converse Building was constructed in 1906. This provided six spacious exhibition galleries and studios for the Norwich Art School. The Converse Art Gallery is used for changing monthly exhibitions which range from theme, groups and one-man shows to circulative exhibitions and annual competitive shows of contemporary art.

Norwich was founded in 1659 by the settlers from Old Saybrook led by Major John Mason and Reverend James Fitch. In 1668, a Wharf was established at Yantic Cove. A public landing was established for ships at the head of the Thames River in 1684. At this point a road was built connecting the port to the settlement which was further inland. By 1694, shipyards were beginning to appear at the Landing Place. However, because of lack of good roads, few buildings, except for warehouses, were built at the Landing Place. To ease transportation two main roads were built. They were known as the East and West Roads. The East Road makes up what is today Union St. and Lower Broadway, and the West Road is now Washington Street.

Norwich merchants were shipping goods directly from England by 1760. However, the Stamp Act of 1764, resulted in a boycott of English goods. Local manufacturing began to provide necessary goods. By the 1770's, mills were already established in Norwich.

Norwich merchants supported independence during the Revolutionary War. Warships were built in Norwich. During the war, Norwich enjoyed some prosperity because of its distance from the coast. While other coastal towns were suffering, Norwich was able to prosper.

A regular steamboat service established from New York to Norwich helped to develop Norwich as a transportation center. Steam powered vessels and sailing boats both occupied the rivers and ports throughout the 189th and early 20th centuries.

The late 1820's and 1830's brought the growth of Norwich's industrial base. The Norwich-Worcester Railroad built in 1832 helped to increase development. By 1855, Norwich had three hotels, the Chelsea Hotel, the City Hotel, and the Wauregan Hotel. The downtown area was not heavily industrialized, but in the outlying area the textile industry was very important.

Industrial growth began to slow in the 1890's. Coastal communities attracted more industry. As a result, industry began to shift away from the more inland Norwich. Downtown still flourished. Streetcars built in the 1880's improved access from downtown Norwich to outlying areas. The first decade of the 20th century brought much construction downtown. Construction continued, unabated, until the 1929 Stock Market Crash.

From its 19th Century emergence as a retail and manufacturing center, Norwich has continued its role as a leader in Southeastern Connecticut. With a multi-ethnic population and organized efforts to revitalize the downtown (Chelsea), Norwich is adapting to its new position as a service and tourist destination. Open spaces along the Yantic River have been preserved. 1995 marks the opening of the Senator Thomas Dodd Memorial Baseball stadium - hosted by the Norwich Navigators (N.Y. Yankee franchise), Putts Up Dock miniature golf course near the marina, and an indoor ice skating rink. Several other attractions, Three Rivers Heritage Center, Fire and Civil War Museums, will open in the next few years. Annual events such as the Chelsea Street Festival, Harbor Days, Historic Norwichtown Days, and Rose Arts/Cajun Festival, as well as many other local celebrations, make the "Rose of New England" bloom with possibilities all year round.

## 6. William W. Backus Hospital

Since opening its doors in 1893, The William W. Backus Hospital has grown continually to meet the needs of the people it serves. Significant expansion in nearly every decade of the past 100 years has seen the hospital become a modern and comprehensive health care facility.

## 7. Yantic Falls and Heritage Walkway ("Greenway")

Falls village lies in a hollow bend of the Yantic River just where it rushes over the rocks, through a winding channel into the cove leading to the Thames River. The waterfall was regarded as one of the most interesting natural curiosities in our early colonial history. It, like other area rivers, provided the power for industrial development in Norwich. Once a camping area of the Mohegan (Indians), it was used as their landing place and fishing place. A major battle between the Narragansett and Mohegan Indian tribes took place on East Great Plains two miles to the south and the fleeing Narragansetts probably crossed the Yantic somewhere between the Powerhouse Museum and the Falls.

Yantic Falls became the first site in Norwich where industrial development began. Industry and the use of waterpower in this area dates back to the development of a grist mill in the 1600s by John Elderkin. The industrial development continued to grow until the early 1900s.

The Heritage Walkway was installed by the City Planning Office and resident activists. The path winds from Upper Falls/Power House Museum to Brown Park (approximately 1.8 miles) preserving Norwich's link to its river heritage.

## 8. DAR Museum/Rockwell House, Backus House

Home to the Faith Trumbull Chapter of the DAR, the museum houses a collection of period furniture, oil paintings, engravings, china and historic memorabilia.

## 9. St. Patrick's Cathedral

The spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral can be seen from almost any point in Norwich. Begun as a dream of Norwich's first Catholic priest, Fr. James Fitton, ground breaking was on Good Friday 1871. The church was dedicated on St. Patrick's Day 1879. The grandeur of the church is noted in its size (216' tallest spire, situated on a 2 acre lot), its beautiful stained glass windows, and stone masonry. The church, designed by Mr. James Murphy, was largely constructed by Norwich's Irish residents and has undergone extensive restorations, most recently in 1950s. Both the pointed arches of the doors and windows and use of different kinds of stones (white/blue granite) to create colored bands are typical of the Victorian Gothic style.

## 10. Mohegan Park

Mohegan Park is the largest and most unusual of Norwich's parks. It was developed from land deeded to the City of Norwich by private citizens between 1906 to 1923 and consists of 385 acres. The park is located geographically in the center of the City. The park is only accessible by four somewhat indirect routes that wind and curve through residential neighborhoods to reach the entrance of the park. The park is mostly untouched woodland over rocky terrain, with a narrow curving internal road pattern leading to Spaulding Pond and its adjacent zoo, play areas, picnic pavilions, small parking lots, and regionally famous rose garden.

## 11. Norwich Memorial Rose Garden

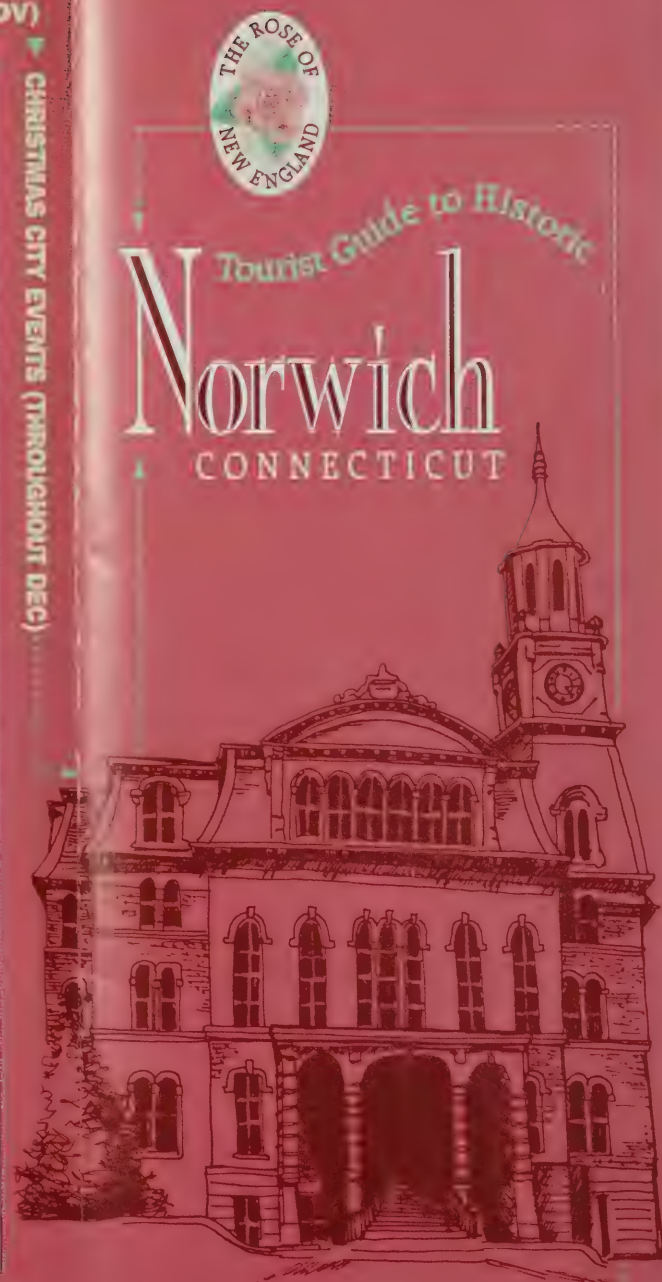
Norwich's Memorial Rose Garden had been for some time just a dream in the minds of members of the City Park Board. The garden, dedicated on July 11, 1948, is located on a gentle slope overlooking Rockwell Street, at the entrance of Mohegan Park. The grounds consist of approximately 2 acres with over 120 varieties of roses and approximately 2500 bushes. Winner of the 1992 All American Rose Award.

## 12. Norwich City Hall

Construction of the present City Hall commenced in 1870 and was completed in 1873 at a cost of \$250,000. The building was designed in the extravagant French Second Empire style, with its dramatic three dimensional architecture. The four-sided clock tower was added in 1909. The interior features a tall vestibule and large, open staircase. Much of it is decorated with original furnishings. The basement contains "dungeon-like" cells which once served as the city jail.

## 13. Howard T. Brown Memorial Park

The harbor area of Norwich is graced with an expanse of grass and elegant gazebo. Situated near the deepest point of the Thames River harbor, this "green area" was created in cooperation with the city to recognize two of Norwich's philanthropist citizens, Howard T. and Elsie A. Brown. Through their legacy, a fund was established to aid in the completion of projects which would benefit all of Norwich's residents. Completed in 1986, it is maintained by the city's Parks & Grounds Department. Located adjacent to the marina, Brown park hosts several events including the summer concert series, Chowder and Harbor Day festivals. The park will connect with Norwich's own Heritage Walkway (which is a part of Connecticut's National Heritage Corridor).



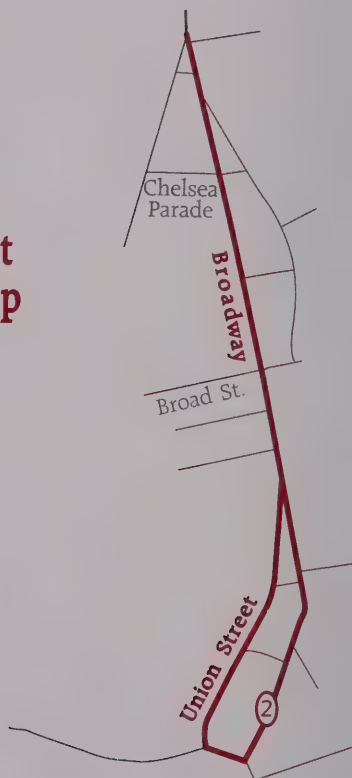


## The Latham Science and Information Center - Lafayette Foster House - c. 1850s

The original structure of this building was the home of Lafayette Foster, who, as the leader of the United States Senate, became Vice President when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. In 1953, the Norwich Free Academy transformed the house into the Norton-Peck Library. The building has since become part of the Latham Science and Information Center. The center was named for Allen Latham, Sr., who taught science at the Academy from 1902 - 1919. His son, Allen Latham, Jr., an alumnus of the Class of 1926, donated \$1 million in honor of his father to further scientific studies at the Academy. Completed in the fall of 1993, the state-of-the-art facility includes four laboratories, a computerized writing lab, and extensive library. **Italianate** - Recognizing that the Foster House is both an architecturally and historically significant part of Norwich's heritage, N.F.A. officials dedicated themselves to maintaining and refurbishing the building's Italianate features. Note the rose and bees in the stained glass window over the front entrance.



## Broadway & Union Street Walking Map



*Visit The Home Of  
Revolutionary Patriot,  
Merchant, Industrialist,  
Entrepreneur*

*Christopher Leffingwell*



"It falls to the lot of few men in private life to benefit a community so largely as Norwich was profited by the enterprise of Colonel Leffingwell." Frances Manwaring Caulkins, History of Norwich, 1866.



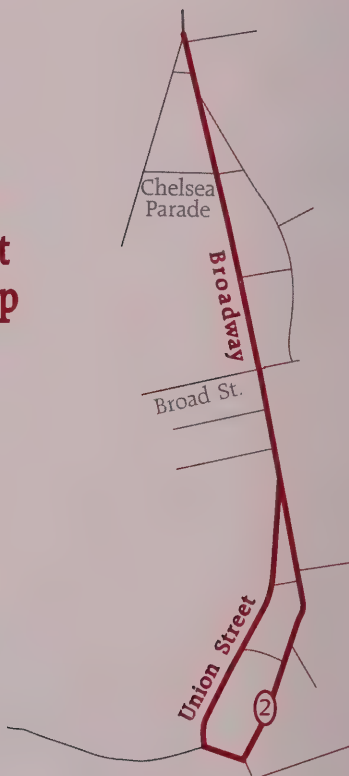
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## Broadway & Union Street Walking Map





### 181 Broadway - Thomas Coit - Deacon Jabez Huntington House - c.1782

Thomas Coit, the original owner, was closely associated with Norwich entrepreneur Christopher Leffingwell. Coit was a partner in Howard & Coit Co., a major privateering firm during the Revolutionary War. He purchased the lot on which this house stands from Leffingwell in 1782. In 1784, when Leffingwell was appointed the First Naval Officer of Norwich, Coit was appointed Collector of Revenue, serving under him. In 1798, Coit moved to Canterbury where he continued as a merchant. The house was sold to Deacon Jabez Huntington, an original incorporator of Norwich Savings Society. **Late Georgian** - The monumental portico, the use of paneled wooden keystones over the first floor windows, and the gambrel roof are all characteristic of the Georgian style. The first story balustrade may be an addition in the 1890s compatible with the Colonial Revival style.



### 185 Broadway - Perkins House - c.1789

Sea Captain Hezekiah Perkins was the original owner and occupant of this house. He was active in the West Indian and European trades. He and his nephews helped to found the Chelsea Grammar School in 1806 (no longer exists). Perkins also worked as a cashier at the Norwich Bank in 1796. In 1811, Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington donated a triangular plot of land across from the house for use as a public park, now known as Little Plain. **Federal** - This house's design with its hip roof and symmetrical window placements are accented by the fanlights in pediments in the small gable and above the door.



### 189 Broadway - Burnham-Dewitt House - c.1789

Captain Zebulon Perkins Burnham, the original owner, was the nephew of Hezekiah Perkins who lived next door. The two houses were built at the same time, and share a remarkable resemblance. Burnham was a sea captain, as was his uncle. He was lost at sea in 1810, while on a trade voyage to Tenerife in the Canary Islands. Later, another sea captain, Jacob DeWitt, owned the home. In 1812, Lydia Huntley (later Mrs. Sigourney) and Nancy Maria Hyde used this building as a school for young ladies. **Federal** - The dual chimneys are for fireplaces that extend to both floors and are located in the corner of every room.



### 213 Broadway - St. Patrick Cathedral - 1870

This Gothic granite building is a testament to the Irish Catholic community of Norwich, who helped construct it. Work began on Good Friday in 1871, and the first mass was held on St. Patrick's Day, 1879. **Gothic Revival** - The building is dominated by a massive tower balanced by two smaller spires. Its soaring lines move the eyes skyward, a basic property of Gothic architecture. See Guide to Historic Norwich for more information.



### 231 Broadway - J.S. Ely House - c.1850

J.S. Ely was owner of Ely & Company, a dry goods store formerly located at 97 Main Street in Norwich. **Gothic Revival** - Note the steeply pitched roof typical of the Gothic Revival. The polygonal chimney pots and the decorative window quatrefoil are also typical of the style.



### 253 Broadway - Briggs House - 1891

This three story home belonged to the Briggs family. In 1915, Mary Briggs bought the house from Jennie Reid, the widow of Adam Reid, founder of the Reid and Hughes Co. (The Boston Store). Mary's husband, Lucius, was president of the Chappel Coal Company, which was located on the land now occupied by the Americus Marina. The young couple held many gala events at the house. The house was known simply as "253" by the Briggs family and their neighbors. **Shingle Style** - This commodious shingle style home was built for comfort, with a covered recessed porch on the first floor, an open recessed porch on the second, and a large gable on the third. The many angles of the porches and bays, rich detail and asymmetry make this house visually interesting.



### 257 Broadway - Carroll-Phillips House - 1850

Lucius Wyman Carroll was a prominent figure in the textile industry, owning such companies as L.W. Carroll & Sons, Wequonnoc Woolen Mills, and Griswold Cotton Co. Mr. Carroll also had influence in local banking circles, and was president of the Quinebaug and First National Banks for 25 years. Mr. Carroll built this house in 1850, and it remained with the Carroll family for 133 years. In 1983, the Phillips family purchased the house, and added a large chandelier to the formal living room. A family heirloom, it was one of four chandeliers to grace the rooftop ballroom of the regal Mohican

Hotel, in downtown New London. **French Second Empire** - This three-story wood house, designed by Cudworth and Woodward, has a striking Mansard roof and a bowed-front wrap-around porch. Note the elaborately framed dormers on the third floor and the richness of detail along the roof line, eaves, corner pilasters, and window cornices. The scrolled cast-iron fence adds to the elegance of this superb structure.



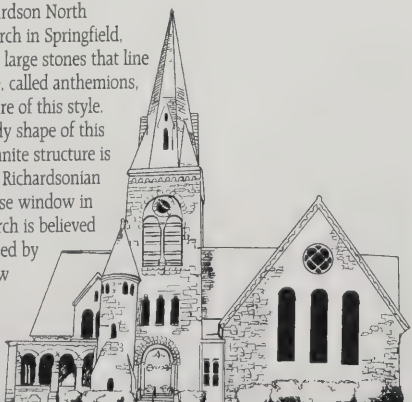
### 269 Broadway Chapman-Sullivan House 1850

Gurdon Chapman, the original owner of this house, was the twelfth mayor of Norwich, from 1843-1845. When Mr. Chapman died in 1859, he left the house to his niece, Rosalie, whom he considered his adopted daughter. The house stayed in the family until 1946, when it was sold to the Sullivan family. The present owners are only the third family to occupy the house since it was built. **Italianate** - This house exhibits classic Italianate structural details, such as eaves brackets, cupola, rounded roof windows, peaked gable, bay window, and the ornate porch trim.



### 283 Broadway - Park Congregational Church - 1874

This church was designed by Stephen C. Earle, who also designed Slater Memorial Museum. The chapel was completed in April, 1874 and the Reverend Malcolm McGregor Dana was called to be the first minister on June 4, 1874. **Richardsonian Romanesque** - Earle modeled this church after the H.H. Richardson North Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. The large stones that line the arched entrance, called anthemions, are a common feature of this style. The squat and sturdy shape of this brownstone and granite structure is the basic design for Richardsonian architecture. The rose window in the back of the church is believed to have been designed by Louis Tiffany of New York. It depicts the Transfiguration of Christ as conceived by the 16th century artist, Raphael.

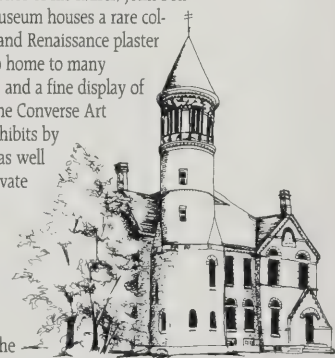


### Norwich Free Academy - 305 Broadway - Incorporated in 1854

The Norwich Free Academy is a privately governed, endowed, regional independent high school. In 1853, Dr. John P. Gulliver, pastor of the Main Street Congregational Church, garnered the support of the wealthy of the community to build a secondary school which would be open to any young men in the area who could pass the entrance examination. The Academy, would be, in his own words, "dedicated...to the provision of adequate training for all the children of the community." Norwich Free Academy opened its doors in 1856. Set on 49 acres, the NFA campus has grown to include an observatory, 11 academic buildings, and athletic fields. The diversity of topics offered within the curriculum include technology, business, and fine arts education, as well as advanced placement classes. It is the second largest high school in Connecticut and is one of only two public high schools in the United States that have an art museum.

### 108 Crescent St. - Slater Memorial Museum - 1886

Slater Memorial Museum, designed by architect Stephen A. Earle, was constructed at the bequest of William A. Slater, a prominent Norwich businessman and named in honor of his father, John Fox Slater. Slater Memorial Museum houses a rare collection of Roman, Greek, and Renaissance plaster casts. The museum is also home to many Native American artifacts, and a fine display of Victorian age furniture. The Converse Art Gallery hosts changing exhibits by local and regional artists, as well as from its established private collection. The Gaultieri Children's Museum delights visitors who are young at heart. **Richardsonian Romanesque** - Note the many intricate details in the brownstone structure, especially the owl, symbolizing wisdom, which is perched over the front entrance. Intricate masonry leaf-work is found on the molding of the front entrance.

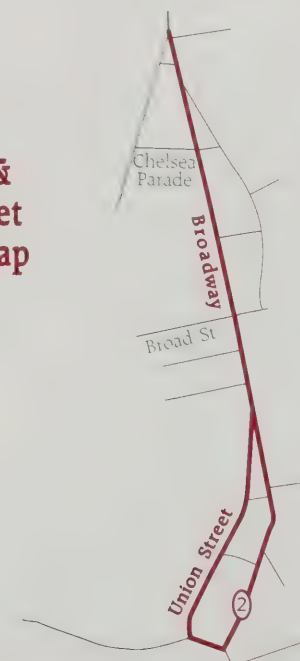


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### Broadway & Union Street Walking Map



Produced by the Norwich Tourism Office. Special thanks to Linda Edgerton, Severn T. Johanssen, and Mike Cummings. Based on previously published brochures by The Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT., Inc. This brochure courtesy of the Norwich City Council, Norwich Tourism Commission, and private contributors. Published 1996.

Approximate length • 1.5 miles  
Estimated time to complete • 1 hour



Walking Guide to Historic

# Broadway & Union Street

NORWICH • CT



Throughout the nineteenth century, Norwich enjoyed noteworthy success as a lively industrial center. Many of its wealthiest entrepreneurs and mill owners built their homes along the shady sidewalks of Broadway. This street became a desirable location for the homes of the industrial magnates because it was one of the main arteries (along with Washington Street) into the commercial centers of downtown and the harbor area.

As the years passed, the Broadway area continued to expand. Norwich Free Academy was incorporated in 1854, and today is one of the finest high schools in the country. Two beautiful churches, Park Congregational and St. Patrick's Cathedral were erected on Broadway late in the century.—The homes listed in this brochure reflect Norwich's golden years as an industrial giant. Firearms manufacturing was centered in Norwich both during and after the Civil War, and textile production attracted legions of immigrants to work in its mills. Norwich was the third largest city in Connecticut in 1830, exceeded in population only by New Haven and Hartford. These structures provide a window into Norwich's illustrious past and are remarkable examples of Victorian styles of architecture. They attest to the City's position as premier trade center in Southeastern Connecticut.

This brochure is a guide to some of the particularly fine examples of building styles in the mid-1800s to the turn of the century. Numerous beautiful homes exist on nearby streets. After walking along Broadway, venture to smaller side streets and observe the colorful, interesting, and often whimsical Victorian styles of architecture as they are exemplified in quiet neighborhoods.

#### 280 Broadway - Mitchell-Lucas House - c. 1896

Built on property once owned by William Slater, the home was later owned by Harriet Mitchell. She was the widow of Porteous Mitchell, owner of a large department store. This 20-room home now belongs to a local attorney. Each of the eight fireplaces has a different marble or wood design. The house is heated by steam which reaches rooms via intricately detailed radiators. In the rear is a large carriage house (now used as a three car garage) and a pool. **New Colonial** - Mixture of Georgian and Federal styles. The rounded balustrade, tracery on the entry lights, and second story Palladian window, add grace to this stately home. Gambrel roof with triple shed dormers allow for a spacious third floor.



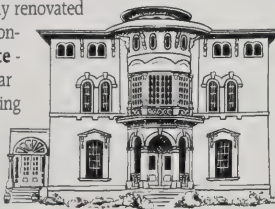
#### 274 Broadway - The Slater-Bishop's Residence - c.1870

William A. Slater resided in this house during the late 1800s. The Slaters were an extremely wealthy and powerful family who owned textile mills in Jewett City, Connecticut and Slatteryville, Rhode Island. They were principal investors in the Ponemah Mills in Taftville. The Catholic Diocese of Norwich purchased the house in the 1950s for use as a residence for this area's Bishop. **Victorian Gothic** - White string courses accenting the building and white dental work under the eaves combine to make this house resemble a gaily wrapped package. Also note the intricate masonry work and how no two sides are identical.



#### 270 Broadway - Bill House - c.1876

The original owner, Henry Bill, was the president of Chelsea Savings Bank, 1888-1890. He served in the State Senate in 1853, and was the youngest member at the time. Mr. Bill provided valuable assistance to Connecticut's Governor Buckingham, a Norwich native, during the Civil War. After the war, he gave a substantial amount of his time and money toward the education of former slaves. In 1930, the Norwich Free Academy purchased the house and used it for Home Economics classes. The school added two clay tennis courts and a tiled locker room in the basement for the tennis team. The current owners have painstakingly renovated the exterior of the home and professionally landscaped the grounds. **Italianate** - Note the unusual entrance. The circular shapes extend to each story, culminating with the cupola atop the house. A lovely glassed-in porch looks out on manicured gardens and lawn.



#### 262 Broadway - Judge Brown House - 1913

This home was built for State Supreme Court Judge, Allen L. Brown. It has had numerous additions. In 1927, on the south end of the structure, the Browns added a second living room and a library. Above the first floor extension, a dressing room was created. The present owners, upon purchase of the house, renovated and remodeled it. In 1991, a Great Room was incorporated into the rear of the house and in 1994, a conservatory was added to the south wing. **Sterns Colonial** - Gabled dormers with tracery, small central Palladian window, and symmetry of design are features of this building style. From 1910 to the present, home builders have tried to capture the simple elegance of Colonial architecture. At the same time, decorative features borrowed from the Victorian era, such as tracery and large windows, have been pared down and incorporated into the house design.



#### 242 Broadway - Hubbard-Porteous House - c.1865

Charles L. Hubbard was president and treasurer of the H.A. Hubbard Company, a paper factory once located on Tenth Street. Late in the nineteenth century, Mr. Hubbard sold the house to John Porteous, who was president of the Hislop, Porteous, and Mitchell dry goods store in Norwich. The store was very successful and eventually the company expanded, opening branches in New London, New York State, Maine, and Michigan. Mr. Hislop and Mr. Mitchell ran the various branches, while Mr. Porteous tended to the general interests of the firm. **Victoria Eclectic** - This mansion is a myriad of architectural styles; Italianate door and window details; French Second Empire Mansard roof; Gothic quatrefoil gable windows.



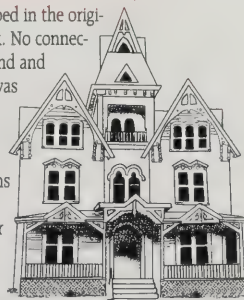
#### 214 Broadway - William M. Williams House - c.1878

The original owner, William M. Williams, Esq., erected this house on May 29, 1878. He was a partner of the Amos W. Prentice & Co., a former hardware store located on Commerce Street in downtown Norwich. **Mixture of Queen Anne, Stick, and Second Empire** - Note the circle motif, and spool-like balusters of the porch which are Queen Anne style details. The woodwork in the porch gable is reminiscent of the Stick style, while the Mansard roof and double front doors are characteristic of French Second Empire architecture.



#### 210 Broadway - Rev. Frank Norton House - c. 1876

The Reverend Frank L. Norton is described in the original deed as a resident of Troy, New York. No connection has been made between the Reverend and any Norwich church. It is assumed, he was retired when he moved into this house. **Victorian Gothic** - Note the decorative molded rakeboard on the front gables, and how each story's window decorations vary. The Belvedere Tower is tucked between the two front gables. The tower provided a clear vantage point for the street activity below.



#### 110 Union St. - c.1864

This house was built for Jonathan W. Hooker. In 1891, he was listed as a real estate agent working out of the building which now houses the Norwich Bulletin. **Italianate** - The long, thin windows, especially on the first floor are characteristic of this style. The pavilion attached to the porch with the conical roof adds to the beauty of this Italianate style home.



#### 96 Union St. - c.1864

The original owner of this house was Gilbert Brewster, owner of the Union Hotel in downtown Norwich and builder of a small steamship, the "Eagle," in 1817. Around 1910, the ABC Elevator Company installed an elevator that services the basement, first and second floors of the house. This is the only house, of this period in Norwich, that has an elevator. **Georgian Revival** - House was originally built in the Federal style, but was remodeled in the early twentieth century in the Georgian Revival Style. Note the bay window and Tuscan pilasters, characteristic of the Georgian Revival, while the balustrade and lower entry are more Federal in flavor.



#### 93 Union St. - c.1880

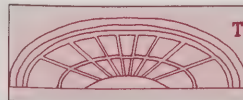
**Queen Anne** - The hexagonal tower with its octagonal lantern-top cupola is centered rather than being placed off to one side, which is the usual position for a tower on a Queen Anne house. Many details, such as the cutout pattern and spindles along the railings, the turned posts with knobs, and the fan-like brackets add decoration to this home.



As the block narrows, with City Hall stationed at the point, there are a number of **Greek Revival** homes. The term Greek Revival is used for two styles of houses built between 1770-1860. The temple-like houses have giant porticoes supported by columns. The more simple structures, are two storied with the front door to one side and gable end towards the street. Often the peak has a decorative window shaped like a fan, circle, split fan or square.

#### 100 Broadway - City Hall - 1879

See Guide to Historic Norwich for more information.



Tracery



Belvedere Tower



Rakeboard



Quatrefoil

#### 160 Broadway - c.1890

The lot on which this house stands was purchased in 1869 by Edward N. Gibbs. Gibbs was then an officer in the Thames National Bank (no longer in existence), as well as a life insurance officer and incorporator of the Dime Savings Bank. **French Second Empire, with Gothic Details** - The house combines Gothic Revival details such as the quatrefoil designs in the lower porch, triangular headed attic window, and a rakeboard in the center gable outlining the pointed arch. The Mansard roof is typical of the French Second Empire architecture.



#### 161 Broadway - Russell Hubbard House - 1826

This house was built in 1826 for Russell Hubbard. Hubbard was publisher of the Norwich Courier for twenty years. He and his brother, Amos H. Hubbard, were involved in the manufacture of paper at the Yantic Falls from about 1837-1857. Russell was also one of the founders of the Norwich Free Academy. **Federal** - The second story glassed-in porch as well as the porch of the front entry way are later additions. The relative simplicity of the house's design is illustrative of the Federal style.



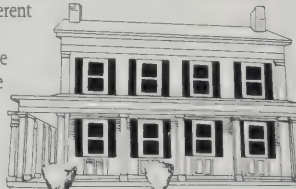
#### 167 Broadway - Ripley-Woodhull House - c.1830

William D. Ripley was listed as a commission merchant in the Stedman's 1846 Norwich Directory and an incorporator of The Norwich Savings Society. He apparently shared the house with the Woodhull family, who later owned it. **Roman Classicism** - Note how the monumental portico employs Roman Doric columns and the arched window over the front door, distinguishing this house from the Greek Revival style.



#### 172 Broadway - Jedidiah Levens House - c.1800

Jedidiah Levens was an iron manufacturer and coal dealer in partnership with James M. Huntington. **Greek Revival** - This house takes an unusual spin on the Greek Revival style. The orientation of the house, with its gable end and entrance to the side, is different from other Greek Revival homes in Norwich. In most cases, the entrance would be at the street. Other unique features are the square columns on the porch, since most other Greek Revival houses employ rounded Ionic columns.



#### 171 Broadway - John Johnson House- c.1845

The original owner of this large home was probably John Johnson, a bachelor whose father was president of the Norwich Bank. Commercial banking first came to Norwich in 1796 with the opening of the Norwich Bank. The bank had several locations before settling on Main Street, where in 1865 it changed its name to Norwich National Bank. In 1889 its assets were acquired by Thames National Bank. This bank later closed as well. **Greek Revival** - The four fluted Ionic columns supporting the two story portico dominate the front view of the house.



#### 170 Broadway - The Huntington - 1906

This home is located in an area once known as the Huntington Flats. The Huntington family figured prominently in all aspects of Norwich society from the colonial period to the turn of the century. Elizabeth Huntington sold the land on which this home was built in 1906 to Charles D. Gallup. It is unclear if Mr. Gallup was the original owner of this home.



#### 175 Broadway - Amasa C. Hall House - c. 1860s

Industrialist Amasa C. Hall lived in this impressive brick home. A man of many interests and talents, Hall was president of the Pequot Machine Company, a grocer, and steamboat agent. The house is a good example of the affluent dwellings preferred by Norwich's wealthy in the post-Civil War era. **French Second Empire** - The Mansard roof, and symmetry of the design are primary characteristics of the French Second Empire, but the porch details and dual columns are of Italianate flavor.



The triangular plot of land enclosed by a cast-iron fence is known as **Little Plain**. It was bequeathed to the City of Norwich in 1811 by Hezekiah Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington. The Victorians were aware that cities needed "open spaces" and when designing urban centers included park areas. Central Park in New York and Hyde Park in London are early examples of planned public spaces which helped to minimize the unpleasant aspects of city living. Little Plain, Mohegan Park, and the many "greens" of Norwich are local examples of this same sentiment.



# How To Find Leffingwell Inn



Produced with the cooperation of the  
Quoketaug Rangers



Walking Guide to Historic

# Norwichtown

N O R W I C H • C T



Approximate length • 2.5 miles  
Estimated time to complete • 1.25 hours

# How To Find Leffingwell Inn



*Produced with the cooperation of the  
Quoketaug Rangers*





### *Dramatic Rescue*

In 1956, two hundred years after Christopher Leffingwell inherited the house, the State of Connecticut announced plans to demolish the Leffingwell House for construction of Route 2. Individuals and historical societies across Connecticut began an intensive campaign to save the historic site. The rescue of the Leffingwell House was one of the first victories of preservation over demolition in Connecticut. The Society of Founders acquired the house from the Department of Transportation and moved it to an adjacent portion of the original lot. Years of painstaking restoration followed.

In 1961, the house was opened to the public, restored and furnished with period antiques.

### *How To Find Leffingwell Inn*



*Produced with the cooperation of the  
Quoketaug Rangers*

*Visit The Home Of  
Revolutionary Patriot,  
Merchant, Industrialist,  
Entrepreneur*

*Christopher Leffingwell*



"It falls to the lot of few men in private life to benefit a community so largely as Norwich was profited by the enterprise of Colonel Leffingwell." Frances Manwaring Caulkins, History of Norwich, 1866.



## *Origins*

Built as a simple two-room house about 1675 by Stephen Backus, the house later belonged to Thomas Leffingwell. In 1701, Thomas was granted permission to keep an inn. Benajah Leffingwell, Thomas' son, was also an innkeeper. The first additions to the original house were made to accommodate its use as an inn. The original upstairs chamber has been restored to a late 1600s/early 1700s appearance.



## *Patriot*

Christopher Leffingwell, a colonel in the Connecticut militia, served the state and nation well in the American Revolution. His duties included raiding British-held Long Island and guard duty along the seacoast. Leffingwell's most important contribution to the cause of the new nation, however, was as deputy commissary to the Continental Army. Food, arms, and clothing from Connecticut enabled the army to survive and to win the war.

Leffingwell's own mill provided paper for bullet cartridges. Connecticut earned its nickname as the "Provisions state" thanks to the efforts of Christopher Leffingwell and others in the commissary.

## *Merchant To Manufacturer*

Christopher Leffingwell inherited the house in 1756. A merchant, Christopher traded with the West Indies and Europe. In the 1760s, at the end of the French and Indian War, Great Britain determined to recover the cost of the war by enforcing trade regulations, collecting customs duties, and imposing new taxes. Widespread protests culminated in the American Revolution a decade later. Christopher Leffingwell was a leader in the move to assert economic independence that preceded the drive for political independence. The colonists' strategy was to replace expensive imported goods with items made in America. In 1766, Christopher Leffingwell established both a pottery kiln and a paper mill. His was the first paper mill in Connecticut. His later enterprises included stocking manufacture on knitting machines, chocolate manufacture, and finishing woolen cloth.



## 26. Simon Huntington - 2 Elm Avenue - 1690

One of the oldest existing houses in Norwich, this house was built by Simon Huntington, Jr. on land originally deeded to him in 1688 by his father, Simon, Sr. Its original large dimensions (increased even further by later owners) served it well as a tavern which Simon, Jr. operated. Simon, Sr. came to Norwich with the first 35 men in 1660 and founded, with his brother Christopher, the Norwich Huntington dynasty. The building has been meticulously restored. **Colonial** - The narrow clapboards and gabled (pointed) roof elongate the house's appearance.



## Norwichtown Walking Map







Walking Guide to Historic

# Washington & Broad Streets

N O R W I C H • C T



Approximate length • 1.25 miles  
Estimated time to complete • 1 hour

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## Norwichtown Walking Map





**14. Daniel Lathrop Coit - 387 Washington Street - 1785**

Captain Joseph Coit was a merchant seaman in New London until the Revolution. His son, Daniel Lathrop Coit, traveled



throughout Europe meeting with Benjamin Franklin and General Lafayette. He married Elizabeth Bill in 1786 and purchased this lovely home. The elm in front is believed to have

been planted in 1754 by Jabez Perkins who had a blacksmithy on the property at the time. **Georgian/Federal** - The keystones over lower windows, pedimented dormers, and glassed in porch are possibly later Federal style additions to the original Georgian structure.

**15. Lowthorpe Meadows**

Of this 18 acre meadow, the major portion was deeded to a Trust in 1907 by Emily Serena Gilman and Louisa Gilman Lane: "in consideration of their love and goodwill to the inhabitants of Norwich, and in memory of their sister, Maria Pent Gilman, and of their Lathrop Ancestry...to be kept as a free open space for the public good, to be unencumbered by dwelling houses, barns, or any nuisance whatever." The Lowthorpe Meadow Association, a group of interested citizens, manages care of this beautiful meadow.



**16. Thomas Lathrop - 385 Washington Street - 1783**

Thomas Lathrop built this beautiful mansion up on the hill near his cousin Daniel's home. He married his first cousin Lydia Hubbard. After her death, he married Lydia Bill. Their gardens and extensive view of the Yantic River Valley made their home a showplace.



Daniel and Thomas carried on the apothecary business of their uncle, Dr. Daniel Lathrop, until 1801. They imported not only medicines but

fruits, wines, and other goods from Europe. **Georgian** - The massive pedimented roof, with fan light on giant portico, is supported by fluted Ionic columns. Monumental pillars and denticulated trim are decorative elements associated with this style.

**17. Olmstead-Lathrop - 380 Washington Street - 1600-1745**

John Olmstead, Norwich's first physician, originally settled on this lot and then sold his home to Samuel Lathrop, a founder, whose family owned it for many generations. It turned down in 1745 and Dr. Daniel Lathrop rebuilt it. Dr. Lathrop had the first apothecary shop in Connecticut. He married Jerusha Talcott, of Hartford, in 1744. Their home was renowned for its beautiful gardens which included flowers, herbs, vegetables, and fruit trees. Poetess Lydia Huntly Sigourney, for whom Sigourney Street in Hartford is named, lived here while her father was a gardener for the Lathrops. Other notable Norwich residents who have lived here include Daniel Coit Gilman (educator) and Benedict Arnold (while apprenticed to Dr. Daniel Lathrop). **Colonial/Georgian** - Note the 12 over 12 windows and shed dormer (center of roof) with end chimneys.



**18. 377 Washington Street - Dr. Joshua Lathrop - 1763**

Daniel and Joshua Lathrop built their apothecary shop here. It is said to be the first in Connecticut, and the only one between New York and Boston, at that time. The infamous American Revolutionary War traitor, Benedict Arnold, is believed to have apprenticed here. **Colonial** - The front section was built first. As business within necessitated more space, new sections (on the right and rear) were added.



**19. East District School - 365 Washington Street - 1789**

The East District School House was built in 1789 to serve the needs of the growing community. Lydia Huntley, as a student here, learned spelling, geography, and mathematics. The teaching of all subjects to both boys and girls, in the same classroom, was very progressive for its time. **Colonial/Georgian** - Notice the similarity in design and building materials between this and the Dr. Lathrop School on the Green.



**20. Thomas Williams - 363 Washington Street - 1759**

Thomas Williams was a tailor. His home and shop were typical of the many shops along the road to the Green. He sold his property to William Beard in 1798 and moved out of Norwich. The property was subsequently occupied by a succession of small shopkeepers. **Colonial**.



**21. Leffingwell House - 348 Washington Street - 1675**

Lt. Thomas Leffingwell was an original settler in 1659. He bought this house from Steven Backus in 1675 and enlarged it. His son, Ensign Thomas Leffingwell, operated this house as a public tavern starting in 1701. Thomas's grandson, Christopher Leffingwell, was a prominent leader and industrialist during the Revolution. He built five small mills: fulling, chocolate, grist, paper, and stocking mills. He operated a general store on Washington Street near Harland Road. Several members of his family had homes nearby. The building was moved to its present site when the Route 2/32 connector was built in 1957 meeting Washington and Town Streets. **Colonial** - Maintained and operated as a museum by the Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT, Inc.



**22. Samuel Manning - 85 Town Street - 1750**

On the point of land, between Cemetery Lane and Town Street, stands the home of Diah Manning (b. 1760), inherited by him from his father, Samuel. Diah served as Drum-Major in the hand-picked bodyguard of George Washington at Valley Forge. He is said to have brought the last meal to Major Andre, on the morning of the British Spy's execution. Diah served for many years as the bell-ringer for Norwichtown. **Colonial/Georgian**.



**23. Lord's Tavern - 86 Town Street - 1760**

At the junction of Elm and Town Streets, Eleazar Lord built his tavern in 1760. It was called the "Compass House" because it faced due north. Many lawyers relaxed here between their times at the Court House, which was on the Green. Each of Norwichtown's taverns attracted groups of people eager to read the newspapers from New London, Boston, and Hartford. Norwich's first newspaper, *The Norwich Packet* began publication in 1773 and continued until the early 1800s. **Colonial** - Hooded entrance is a 19th-century alteration. Ell in rear, also served as a post office.



**24. Lathrop House - 14 Elm Avenue - 1764**

In 1747 William Morgan bought this house, which was built between 1747-1752. In 1764 Azariah Lathrop purchased the home and subsequently enlarged it. His son, Dr. Gordon Lathrop inherited the house and he operated his shop across the Green in 1791. **Colonial** - The attractive windowed cupola on the roof and brackets under the eaves are Victorian period additions.



**25. Knight-Peck Tavern - 8 Elm Avenue - 1717**

Sarah Knight traveled horseback from Boston to New York in 1704, and kept a diary of her trip describing the unsettled countryside of the time. She operated the Tavern for several years. Her stature in the community was noted by her assigned pew at the Congregational Church. In 1718, however, she was brought before the Justice of the Peace for selling strong drink to the Indians, which was illegal. Joseph Peck owned the tavern after 1754, and made many additions to it. The handsome scrolled cast iron fence is a late 19th century addition. **Colonial**.



**26. Simon Huntington - 2 Elm Avenue - 1690**

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**Norwichtown Walking Map**



Data compiled from **History of Norwich, CT** (F.M. Caulkins), **Old Houses of Norwich** (M.E. Perkins), and Society of the Founders of Norwich's **Walking Guides**. Special thanks to E.B. Read for research and writing and to Linda Edgerton for editing and polish. This brochure courtesy of the Norwich Tourism Commission, Norwich City Council, and private contributions. Published 1995



Norwich was founded in 1659 by 35 English settlers led by Major John Mason and Reverend James Fitch. Most of these families came from Old Saybrook, with a few from New London and Guilford, CT. They purchased a nine-mile square (9 x 9 = 81 square miles) plot of land from the Mohegan Indians. Their initial settlement surrounded the Green in Norwichtown. Early settlers included the Huntington, Lathrop, and Leffingwell families. Only three houses from 1660 (and possibly a fourth) remain standing.

Norwichtown was the first center of Norwich. Chelsea, at the confluence of the Shetucket and Yantic Rivers, became the center in the early 1800s. Around the Green, the buildings reflected the needs of the colonists as well as their positions of rank in society. The Congregational Church stood on the Southwest corner of the Green and the Court House on the Southeast corner. Taverns and shops interspersed with homes of prominent residents attested to its significance as a place of gathering and commerce. Most town greens in New England also served as shared pasture land and practice grounds for the militia. Today the Green in Norwichtown remains a place of social and cultural events.

The remarkable condition of the venerable homes in Norwichtown demonstrates the high regard Norwich citizens have for their heritage. Modern buildings and roads have inevitably added to this area, yet if Samuel Huntington were to walk through Norwichtown today, he would still recognize much of his former hometown.

The Walking Tour of Norwichtown can be started at any point. This brochure, however, begins at the First Congregational Church, moves along East Town Street towards Washington Street, and back up Town Street making an easy to follow loop. Only representative historic homes in the area are listed. Neighboring homes on either side are just as interesting architecturally. The street number, first owner, and date of construction are listed in this guide, followed by a brief history. The architectural style is in bold print with elements of that style noted. The homes on this walking tour are all of the colonial era from New England Colonial, a straightforward peaked roof or saltbox with small multiple-paned windows and narrow clapboards, to Georgian, with its classical details derived from Italian Renaissance of the mid-16th Century in Europe, and to the later Federal (or Adam) style, with roof-line balustrades, Palladian windows, and decorative detailing.

### 1. First Congregational Church - 81 East Town Street - 1801

The first Meeting House stood on the Southwest corner of the Green. In 1673 the second building was erected atop Church Rocks (to the left of the present, fifth, building). This was during the disturbed period known as King Philip's War. Norwich however, aside from being constantly on alert, suffered few skirmishes, and escaped being as direly affected by the conflict as many other New England towns. The third church was built on the same spot but when it came time to erect a new church (in 1752), it was placed under the Rocks on the 'plain'. It burned down in 1801 and was replaced by the present building.

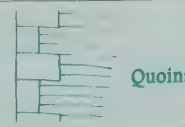
Each family was assigned a pew, with the most prominent families seated closest to the pulpit. Reverend James Fitch was the first minister. Dr. Benjamin Lord was pastor from 1716 to 1784. His sermons were like a weekly newspaper with the latest reports of the war and town news (complete with editorial comments and recommendations for the congregation). **Federal** - Symmetry in construction reflects the "balance" desired in Colonial architecture. The corners are joined by quoins (obvious squares, made to look like stones) which break up the flat look of the outline.

### 2. Jesse Brown Tavern - 77 East Town Street - 1790

Jesse Brown's house was licensed as a tavern and stage coach stop in 1790. It was famous for its fine dinners as his stages constantly supplied him with delicacies from Boston and Hartford. President John Adams dined here. In 1814, Captain Bela Peck bought the tavern and lived here until his death in 1850. Later, Moses Pierce gave the building to the United Workers to be used as a home for poor children. Today, it is the home of a philanthropic community agency. **Federal** - Note the gabled roof, recessed arches over windows, and attenuated columns. The Adams brothers of England popularized this more ornamental of the Colonial building styles.



Gambrel Roof



Quoins



Keystone



Greek Revival Porch



Hip Roof



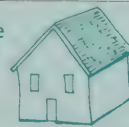
Fanlight



Dormer



Nine over Nine Windows



Gable Roof



Lights

### 3. Joseph Carpenter's Shop - 73 East Town Street - 1772

This was Joseph Carpenter's Silversmith Shop and is believed to be the only surviving frame silversmith shop in New England. Today it is owned by the Society of the Founders of Norwich. Joseph made clocks, jewelry, pewter, and engravings. His pieces are highly valued collector's items. The building is presently used as a law office. **Colonial/Georgian** - The gambrel roof allows for larger interior. Double front doors may have been used as separate entrances for the silver and mercantile shops which were operated within by Joseph and Gardiner Carpenter, respectively.



### 4. Daniel Lathrop School - 69 East Town Street - 1783

The Connecticut Colony laws required that every town of thirty families maintain a school to teach reading and writing. Dr. Daniel Lathrop left an endowment for the establishment of a free school, with the condition that it be kept in session eleven months a year. Prior to this, a teacher would board with a family for a few months and then move on to another section of town to do the same. **Colonial / Georgian** - Brick construction was used for both safety and longevity. A wooden belfry rises above the gambrel roof.



### 5. Norwichtown Burying Ground - 1715-1903

The East Town Street gates lead to the Old Burying Ground. Many early settlers are buried here; Samuel Huntington (CT governor) Benedict Arnold's mother (Martha Waterman Arnold), and members of the founding families. At the southwest entrance on Cemetery Lane, there is a marker for twenty French soldiers who died here during the Revolutionary War. Extraordinary examples of early gravestone carvers are found here. The Faith Trumbull Chapter, of the Daughters of the American Revolution, installed the memorial gates in 1903.



### 6. Samuel Huntington - 34 East Town Street - 1769

The most famous member of the Huntington Family was Samuel (1731 - 1796). Born in Scotland, CT, he studied law under Reverend Ebenezer Devotion, and married his daughter, Martha, in 1761. Samuel and Martha had no children but adopted a niece and nephew. Samuel served his country in many ways; President of the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Connecticut, and State Supreme Court Chief Justice. He is buried in the Huntington Tomb in the back of the house in the Old Burying Grounds. **Federal** - The front Greek Revival porch and giant portico, as well as door side lights, are later additions giving the house a more Federal style appearance. Note the elaborate Greek Revival front porch and the face of Mohegan Chief, Uncas, on the chimney.



### 7. Jedediah and Ebenezer Huntington - 23 East Town Street - 1765

Son of General Jabez Huntington, Jedediah went to Harvard, fought at Bunker Hill, and became a Brigadier General in 1777. He married Faith Trumbull (daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Lebanon, and sister of the artist, John Trumbull). She is said to have offered her fine red wool cloak to the making of soldier's uniforms which was an inspiration for others to rally behind the Revolutionary cause. After the Revolutionary War, Jedediah was appointed Collector of Customs at New London and built his "Mount Vernon" there. His brother, General Ebenezer Huntington, lived here after 1789. **Georgian/Federal** - The keystones over the lower windows and fanlight are Federal style additions.



### 8. 11 Huntington Lane - Colonel Joshua Huntington - 1771

Colonel Joshua Huntington (third son of General Jabez Huntington) was a successful merchant and ship owner. During the Revolution, he served in the army and later helped outfit privateers. He supplied the French Army at Newport, R.I., with provisions and had charge of prizes sent to Connecticut by the French Navy. **Georgian** - 12 over 12 windows, these small squares of glass (12 on top, 12 on the bottom) were introduced around 1720. Previous windows would either have been casement type or small square apertures which did not open. The standard size pane, 6" w x 8" h, was established early and multiples of these dictated the dimensions of the 18th Century windows. Windows are often the first thing to be "modernized" in older homes, thus few 'original' windows are left on early colonial homes.



### 9. 16 Huntington Lane - Bradford-Huntington - 1660

This structure was built on John Bradford's home lot in 1660. In 1719, Captain Joshua Huntington, a well known merchant who traded extensively in the West Indies, bought the original smaller house. He added the gambrel roof, central stone chimney, attic overhang, and pediments over the end windows making the house more **Georgian** in style.



### 10. Reverend Joseph Strong - 30 Huntington Lane - 1778

Reverend Joseph Strong married Mary Huntington (daughter of Jabez) in 1778. He came to Norwich as an assistant to Reverend Benjamin Lord, who was then in his eighty-sixth year. **Colonial/Georgian** - Notice the interesting bay window with two port hole windows over the front door, which may have been later alterations. The stepping stone by the street helped ladies descend from their carriage. The small windows over and along side the door are called lights.



### 11. 25 Scotland Road - Thomas Danforth - 1746

Thomas Danforth was a pewterer who designed and fashioned plates, bowls, and tankards. He was one of fourteen children of Reverend Samuel Danforth of Taunton, Massachusetts. At one time, he had a shop on the Green. Examples of his work are on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Leffingwell House Museum. The street was originally named for his family. **Colonial** - This is a good example of an average sized home. Peaked porch roof a later addition. Compare the early attic window with the 19th Century styles on the lower portion of the house.



### 12. 2 Canterbury Turnpike - Avery & Tracy - 1745

This corner lot was originally where the Sluman home existed. In 1745, William Lathrop built his home here. Many years later, in 1793, Samuel Avery and Major Thomas Tracy had a shop here. The house has been altered by succeeding generations. **Federal** - The front door off to one side, and the second story over hanging the first story (forming a jetty), is a variation of this style.



### 13. Christopher Huntington - 410 Washington Street - Circa 1720

Original settler Christopher Huntington married Ruth Rockwell in 1652. His son Christopher, Jr., was the third baby and first male child born in Norwich (1660). He was an expert surveyor and served as town clerk and deacon. He had four daughters and seven sons. At his death in 1735, he passed the home lot to his son John. John's sons, Caleb and Ezra, lived nearby. **New England Colonial** - Look for the 12 over 8 windows on the top floor, and the 12 over 12 on the bottom floor.





# P A R A D E

- Triangular shaped plot of land

**WWII and Korean Conflict:** Sponsored by the Norwich Area Veteran's Council, this is a memorial to those who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and later Vietnam. It was installed on Memorial Day, May 1968. Norwich's contribution to World War Two included 4,500 men serving in the armed forces. Of that group 250 were wounded and 123 died, including two men who were on the USS Arizona when it was attacked at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The Korean War cost Norwich 18 men and Vietnam claimed another 15 Norwich lives.

**POW-MIA:** The design of this monument, to prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action, was taken from the flag which is the symbol for these war heroes. It was placed here in 1992 by the MIA-POW Monument Committee and Norwich Area Veterans Council.

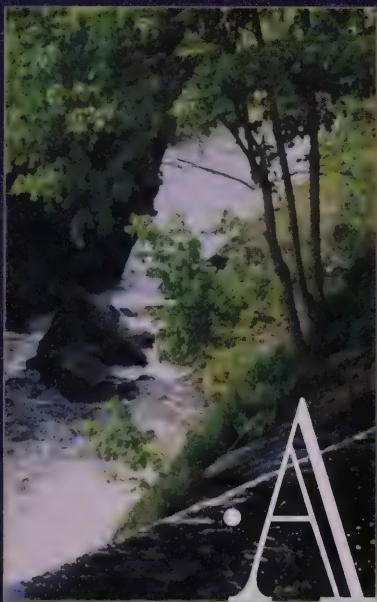
**Cannon:** This Howitzer Cannon, manufactured in Germany, is from World War I. Norwich also produced munitions for many of America's armed conflicts. At one point 30 firearms manufacturers existed in the City. The production of sail cloth, uniforms, and other battlement materials provided a boon to Norwich businesses beginning with the American Revolution through World War I.

**Samuel Reid:** The child of a former soldier who left the British army to marry a colonist, Samuel Chester Reid gained distinction during the War of 1812 when he sank three British warships which were blocking the Portuguese Port of Fayal. During the Battle of New Orleans, Reid out maneuvered the British, lost his own ship, but saved Andrew Jackson's men. He has left his legacy in the design of the American flag. The original "stars and stripes" added a star and bar for every new state entering the Union. Reid suggested, and Congress approved, adding only a star for each new state and keeping the bars to thirteen, to represent the original thirteen colonies. A Norwich native, navy captain, and statesman, Samuel Chester Reid is no longer the "forgotten hero". This bronze and stone plaque was positioned here in 1932 during the bicentenary of George Washington by the Samuel Chester Reid Memorial Association.

**Horse Watering Trough:** When horses were the primary means of transportation it was necessary for the drivers to provide them with plenty of fresh water. This fancy trough, which once had a gas powered beacon for a top, was originally located in Franklin Square. It was moved to Chelsea Parade around 1910. Today it has been adapted as a flower planter and welcomes visitors to the Rose City.

# Norwich

CONNECTICUT



A  
TO Z



# P A R A D E

- Triangular shaped plot of land

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## 2 Broad St. - Congregation Brothers of Joseph - 1964

This is a modern building but it traces its origin back to 1886, when Orthodox Jews on the west side of Norwich erected a new temple. It was named for Mr. Kine Lahn's son, Joseph, who was born the same week as the dedication of the synagogue. As the members of the Jewish faith prospered and grew in number in Norwich, this building was created to meet their needs. The land on which it was built belonged to the Osgood family who were prominent pharmacists. **Modern/Linear** - Narrow windows, dark stain, and asymmetrical roof lines are stylistic elements of architectural design in the mid-1960s through the 1970s.



## 157 Washington St. - Learned-Aiken House - c.1799

This house was built by master carpenter Ebenezer Learned, in the Federal style. In 1862, Connecticut's Civil War Governor and Norwich native, William A. Buckingham, purchased the house for his daughter, Eliza Buckingham-Aiken. Eliza's husband, General J.W. Aiken, enlarged the house and most likely added the Greek Revival details. **Federal/Greek Revival** - The monumental portico and the gable end facing the street are principal features of the Greek Revival style. Also note the small flower details, lights around the front entrance, and carved wooden door. Symmetry is a principle feature of these building styles.



## 173 Washington St. - Leonard Ballou House - c.1857

This mansion was built by Leonard Ballou, the same man who constructed the neighboring house at 181 Washington St. The home remained in the Ballou family until the early 1900s when it was sold and converted into apartments. It has since been converted back into a single family residence.

### French Second Empire

The keystones above the windows, pediments above the center window and doorway, dental work under the eaves, as well as the multi-colored paint, add flare of this illustrious home.



## 181 Washington St. - c.1850

Leonard Ballou owned the cotton mills in the Ballouville section of Killingly, Connecticut.

**Italianate** - The pediments over the lower windows are reminiscent of the Greek Revival style. The boxy shape, long narrow windows, low pitched roof, and neutral painted brick and trim give the house its Italianate look.



## 185 Washington St. - Charles A. Converse House - 1870

In 1853, Charles A. Converse bought and developed valuable mill property at the Yantic Falls where he made files and augers used for carpentry and fine metal work. He died in 1901, leaving funds for the establishment of the Converse Art Gallery on the Norwich Free Academy campus.

**Tudor-Gothic** - Note the steeply pitched roof's red and gray slate pattern. The peaked windows give this house a skyward thrust. The stonework in the front wall, with its pointed posts and star pattern, mimic the pointed designs on the house.



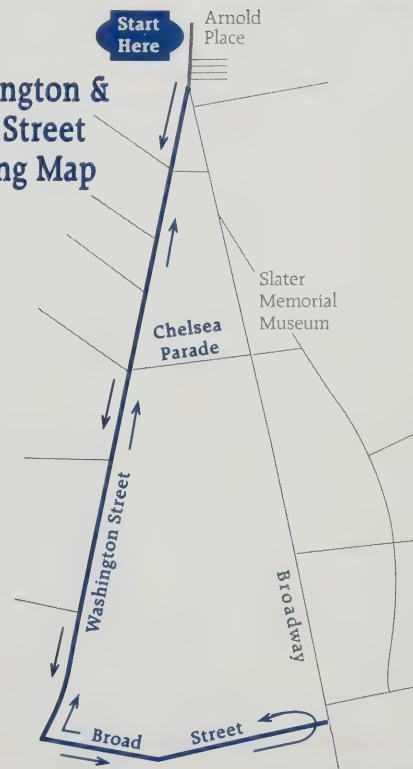
## 9 Chelsea Parade South - Teel House - c.1789

Advertised as "The Teel House, sign of General Washington," this former hotel drew wide acclaim for its fine third-floor ballroom, which provided varied forms of entertainment, and a meeting place for local clubs and lodges. It is rumored that George Washington once danced on the spring-supported ballroom floor. The house was the residence of General William Williams until 1885 and served as the Park Church parsonage until 1945. It is now owned by the Norwich Free Academy.

**Federal** - The Teel House is distinguished by its four chimneys and the double balustrade at the top and over the front entry. The elaborate iron fence in the front is an example of the period's fine craftsmanship.



## Washington & Broad Street Walking Map



## CHELSEA PARADE

Granted to public on April 5, 1797 - Triangular shaped plot of land

What is now known as Chelsea Parade was originally an undeveloped plot of land formally used by the Mohegan Tribe as a burial ground. After the colonists settled in Norwich, this land sat untitled while all along its borders building lots were purchased and houses erected. Realizing that this area would be well-suited as an open space for public use, Joseph Perkins and Thomas Fanning bought the land at their own expense and donated it to the City. Nearby roads are named for these Norwich benefactors. One of the earliest uses of the public green was as a space for military exercises. Military reviews such as the one given by Colonel Elisha Edgerton's cavalry regiment, on Sept. 4, 1798, led to the land being designated **The Parade**.

Most of Chelsea Parade is used as a gathering space for the public. The pointed end and the annex, across the street, are used as remembrance sites for residents and war heroes. The following memorials serve to remind us that Norwich citizens have played their parts gallantly in the struggles of this nation.

**Columbus Monument:** Dedicated by the Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee of Norwich on October 11, 1992, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage to the Americas. Designer Richard Comolli included the names of 400 Italian immigrants who came to Norwich in the early part of this century. The inscription translates to "honor thy parents". The monument is made of alabaster granite. It was financed through private contributions and from local organizations named on the benches encircling it.

**U.S.S. Maine Monument:** Cast from a portion of the recovered remains of the U.S.S. Maine, this stone and metal plaque is dedicated to those who died when the battleship blew up off the coast of Cuba. This incident is cited as the catalyst for the U.S. declaring war on Spain.

**Civil War Statue:** Cut from granite in Westerly, Rhode Island, this monument was erected on April 14, 1873. The figure is 12 feet high and stands atop at 27 1/2 foot high pedestal on which the names of all those who fell while in active duty are inscribed. Connecticut sent 54,000 men, of whom 1,500 were from Norwich, to fight in what was then known as the **Great Rebellion**.

**WWI:** This monument is dedicated to the men and women who served during the first World War, of which 700 were from Norwich. Nearly 50 Norwich men gave their lives during the **Great War**.

**WWII and Korean Conflict:** Sponsored by the Norwich Area Veteran's Council, this is a memorial to those who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and later Vietnam. It was installed on Memorial Day, May 1968. Norwich's contribution to World War Two included 4,500 men serving in the armed forces. Of that group 250 were wounded and 123 died, including two men who were on the USS Arizona when it was attacked at Pearl Harbor. Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The Korean War cost Norwich 18 men and Vietnam claimed another 15 Norwich lives.

**POW-MIA:** The design of this monument, to prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action, was taken from the flag which is the symbol for these war heroes. It was placed here in 1992 by the MIA-POW Monument Committee and Norwich Area Veterans Council.

**Cannon:** This Howitzer Cannon, manufactured in Germany, is from World War I. Norwich also produced munitions for many of America's armed conflicts. At one point 30 firearms manufacturers existed in the City. The production of sail cloth, uniforms, and other battlement materials provided a boon to Norwich businesses beginning with the American Revolution through World War I.

**Samuel Reid:** The child of a former soldier who left the British army to marry a colonist, Samuel Chester Reid gained distinction during the War of 1812 when he sank three British warships which were blocking the Portuguese Port of Fayal. During the Battle of New Orleans, Reid out maneuvered the British, lost his own ship, but saved Andrew Jackson's men. He has left his legacy in the design of the American flag. The original "stars and stripes" added a star and bar for every new state entering the Union. Reid suggested, and Congress approved, adding only a star for each new state and keeping the bars to thirteen, to represent the original thirteen colonies. A Norwich native, navy captain, and statesman, Samuel Chester Reid is no longer the "forgotten hero". This bronze and stone plaque was positioned here in 1932 during the bicentenary of George Washington by the Samuel Chester Reid Memorial Association.

**Horse Watering Trough:** When horses were the primary means of transportation it was necessary for the drivers to provide them with plenty of fresh water. This fancy trough, which once had a gas powered beacon for a top, was originally located in Franklin Square. It was moved to Chelsea Parade around 1910. Today it has been adapted as a flower planter and welcomes visitors to the Rose City.

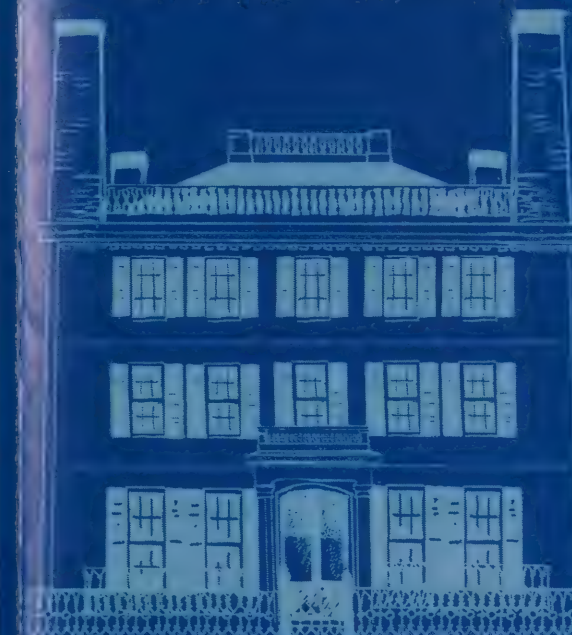
Produced by the Norwich Tourism Office. Special thanks to Linda Edgerton, Severn T. Johanssen, and Mike Cummings. Based on previously published brochures by The Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT., Inc. This brochure courtesy of the Norwich City Council, Norwich Tourism Commission, and private contributors. Published 1996.



Walking Guide to Historic

# Washington & Broad Streets

NORWICH • CT



Approximate length • 1.25 miles  
Estimated time to complete • 1 hour



Throughout the 19th century, Norwich flourished as a leading industrial center of Connecticut. Several large mills, producing everything from textiles to firearms, occupied the banks of Norwich's rivers. The Ponemah Mills, in the Taftville section of the City, was reputedly the largest cotton mill complex in the world. The Yantic Falls section was the center of industrial growth in Norwich in the 1600s. The picturesque waterfall provided power for a variety of factories and mills. After 1760, Chelsea or Downtown, housed many retail stores and businesses, while the harbor bustled with trade. Together this activity generated great wealth for the community's leading mill owners, merchants, and businessmen.

Washington Street was attractive to many of Norwich's prosperous entrepreneurs because it, along with Broadway, comprised one of the two main arteries into the downtown and harbor area. It was also in close proximity to the industrial area by the Yantic Falls. Successful businessmen built their homes beside the busy road and pushed for sidewalks to be installed in the 1870s. These houses reflect both an era of immense fortunes and the will of modern day Norwich to protect and preserve its illustrious history. The houses listed on this brochure are representative of architectural building styles. Visitors are encouraged to stroll along many of the side streets to observe additional examples.

This tour follows a loop which begins at the Benedict Arnold Birthplace Marker, at the corner of Arnold Place and Washington Street. Proceed south along right hand side of the road, to Broad Street. Walk along Broad Street, down one side and up the other, and go north back onto Washington Street. Take right onto Chelsea Parade South.

Buildings are witnesses to change through the decades. These houses reveal their stories through design, location, and maintenance. What tales do they tell you?

#### 296 Washington St. - 1913

An excellent example of bungalow styling, this building was home to Dr. Robert A. Agnew's family for 50 years. Dr. Agnew was a general practitioner at William W. Backus Hospital. In 1972, Lee Memorial United Methodist Church purchased the home for use as a parsonage. **Craftsman** - The building resembles the chalet and pastoral homes admired by turn of the century romantics. Tapering posts hold up the porch over which is a shed dormer. Mix of construction materials is typical of this style.



#### 276 Washington St. - Captain Jonathan Chester House - c.1755

This house was built by Captain Jonathan Chester of Groton. His grandfather, Samuel Chester, was a sea captain in New London in 1663, and was engaged in trade with the West Indies. Jonathan was married to Freelove Waterman, a descendent of Sgt. Thomas Waterman, one of the founders of Norwich. **English Colonial** - Note the wooden clapboards, gabled roof, and lights along the doorway, all typical of the style.



#### 270 Washington St. - c.1890

Local architect, James Hiscox, designed this residence for Charles R. Butts. Mr. Butts served for 67 years at the Norwich Savings Society and as its president from 1923-1938. He began there as a clerk in 1871, and steadily moved through the ranks until he was elected president in 1923. In 1931, Mr. Butts became president of the Thames Bank and Trust Co., making him the chief executive of two of Norwich's largest banks. Thus, Mr. Butts earned his reputation as the "dean of Norwich bankers." **Colonial Revival** - The fanlight in the pediment provides detail and the perfectly proportioned porches add symmetry to the structure.



#### 268, 264, 262, Washington St. - c.1880

These three houses were bought and sold often with no single family residing in them for a long period of time. It is interesting to note that they were all built around the same time, yet each represents a different style of architecture. These houses are good examples of where an average middle-income person living in Norwich, may have resided.



**268 - French Second Empire** - The tremendous arch in the roof line, and Mansard roof with curled leaf columns supporting the entry jetty, give this house an elegant look.



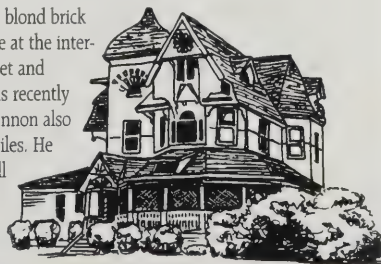
**264 - Italianate** - The center gable with its single arched window and the dental work under the eaves add detail. The double columns under the porch are matched by the double arched-windowed front doors.



**262 - Queen Anne** - The flathead tower, the gabled roof with quatrefoil wood cut outs and the porch supported by rafters, are features of this style.

#### 242 Washington St. - James B. Shannon House - c.1890

The original owner, James B. Shannon, was a wealthy Norwich businessman. He made his fortune as a liquor and cigar dealer and in real-estate. He constructed the first apartment building in Norwich at Marguerite Corner. He built the Shannon Building, a blond brick commercial structure at the intersection of Main Street and Broadway, which has recently been renovated. Shannon also had interests in textiles. He owned a woolen mill in Baltic and invested in several other local mills. At one



point, Shannon was the largest tax payer in Norwich. **Queen Anne** - This three story structure has no two sides alike. It boasts typical features of the period from its wide veranda to its varied facades, overhangs, windows, and roof lines. Notice the oriental look of the tower roof. Stick style woodwork decorates the house, and is most noticeable in the sunrise motif gracing the front door overhang. This house is featured on the Tourism Commission's official Norwich poster.



#### Masonic Temple - Corner of Sachem and Washington Streets

Cornerstone of this imposing structure was laid in 1927. The Masons are a fraternal organization which evolved from Medieval guilds. A social and benevolent society, they raise money for Shriner's Children's bum centers. The interior has a full auditorium and banquet facilities. **Roman Temple/Mix** - Ionic order pilasters are set off by Masonic Symbols. Building reflects a movement away from pure Roman Revival and excessive ornamentation.

#### 188 Washington St. - H.B. Norton House - 1840

Henry B. Norton was a prominent businessman in Norwich throughout the nineteenth century. He was the senior executive of the Norton Bros., Grocery Store, at the time one of the largest in the State. He was also the president of the Norwich Bleaching, Dyeing, and Printing Co. Mr. Norton took a profound interest in educational matters, and was an original Corporator of the Norwich Free Academy. **Greek Revival** - The large pediment with the four Doric columns supporting the portico, and the Ionic pilasters on the corners and between the windows, illustrate the Greek Revival style.



#### 172 Washington St. - C.M. Huntington House - c.1870

This home was built by C.M. Huntington, a leading clothing retailer of Connecticut. The Huntington family occupied the home until 1919. During Prohibition, 1920-1933, the home became a "speak easy," and had a full-sized bar installed in the basement. **French Second Empire** - Note the Mansard roof with its three dormers, the paired brackets under the eaves, and the balustrade over the porch.



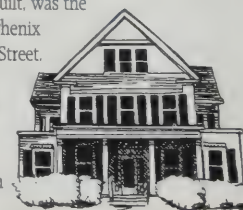
#### 154 Washington St. - Pinehurst - c.1860

Edward N. Gibbs lived in this house, dubbed Pinehurst, during the late 19th century. Mr. Gibbs was president of the Thames National Bank from 1892-1896. Thames National Bank, like many others of its day, was located on Shetucket Street in Chelsea in an area known as "banker's row". Few of the banks, begun in the 1830s, operate today. In 1897, Mr. Gibbs left the bank and served as treasurer of the New York Life Insurance Co., until his death in 1900. **Italian Villa (Tuscany)** - The low-pitched hip roof top, loggia (upper story porch), and the tower are features of this style. This house was built to resemble the stucco homes which dot the Italian countryside. Houses received additions as families grew, resulting in the rambling style home.



#### 15 Broad St. - Lucy H. Smith House - c.1845

Lucy H. Smith, for whom the house was built, was the wife of Albert Smith, an employee at the Phenix Foundry Co. formerly located on Franklin Street. After her husband's death, Mrs. Smith's financial matters were handled by Captain Erastus Williams, the mayor of Norwich from 1853 - 1855. **Greek Revival** - The high gable roof, with the fluted columns in front, highlight this impressive home.



#### 17 Broad St. - Frances Johnson House - 1923

The original occupant, Mrs. Frances Johnson, was the widow of Robert C. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was the assistant treasurer at the textile mill, Aspinook Company. **Colonial Revival** - The arched shape of the fanlight over the front door is repeated in the Palladian second story window and the cross dormer in the roof. These features along with the swan's neck wooden decoration over the front door, the decorative brackets and dental work under the eaves, add detail to this home.



#### 23 Broad St. - Henry Church House - c.1920

Henry E. Church was an employee of the funeral firm of Church & Allen which was located at 15 Main Street. The business is still in operation at 136 Sachem Street. **Craftsman** - The matching gable roofs of the extended shed dormer add depth to this design. Note the large screened-in porch, typical of this style.



#### 24 Broad St. - Lewis Edwards House - 1860

This sixteen room home was built by Lewis Edwards, owner of a book and stationery store. Several other prosperous merchants and mill operators also owned this home. Among them was George Hall, who with his brothers Joseph and Benjamin, owned Hall Bros., a woolen factory located on Commerce Street. William A. Slater, who donated the funds for the construction of the Slater Museum, also lived in this home. **Italianate** - The cupola, double front doors, and repetition of the arch shape in the windows and carved roof brackets under the eaves, lend distinction to the design. The decorative wooden lace under the arched roof line, and the iron balustrades over the porch also add to the rich detail.



Mansard Roof

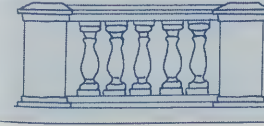


Portico

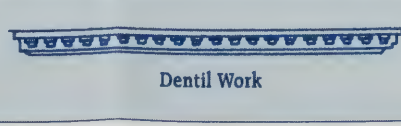


Ionic Columns

Cupola



Balustrade



Dentil Work



Hip Roof



Fanlight



Pediment



# THE ROSE OF NEW ENGLAND





To: Rte. 2

W. 11

GLASSBORO

W. 11

**Map of  
NORWICH  
BOZRAH · FRANKLIN  
GRISWOLD · LISBON  
PRESTON · SPRAGUE  
Connecticut**



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1659 James Fitch - Property - Original House lot Rest of Original lots

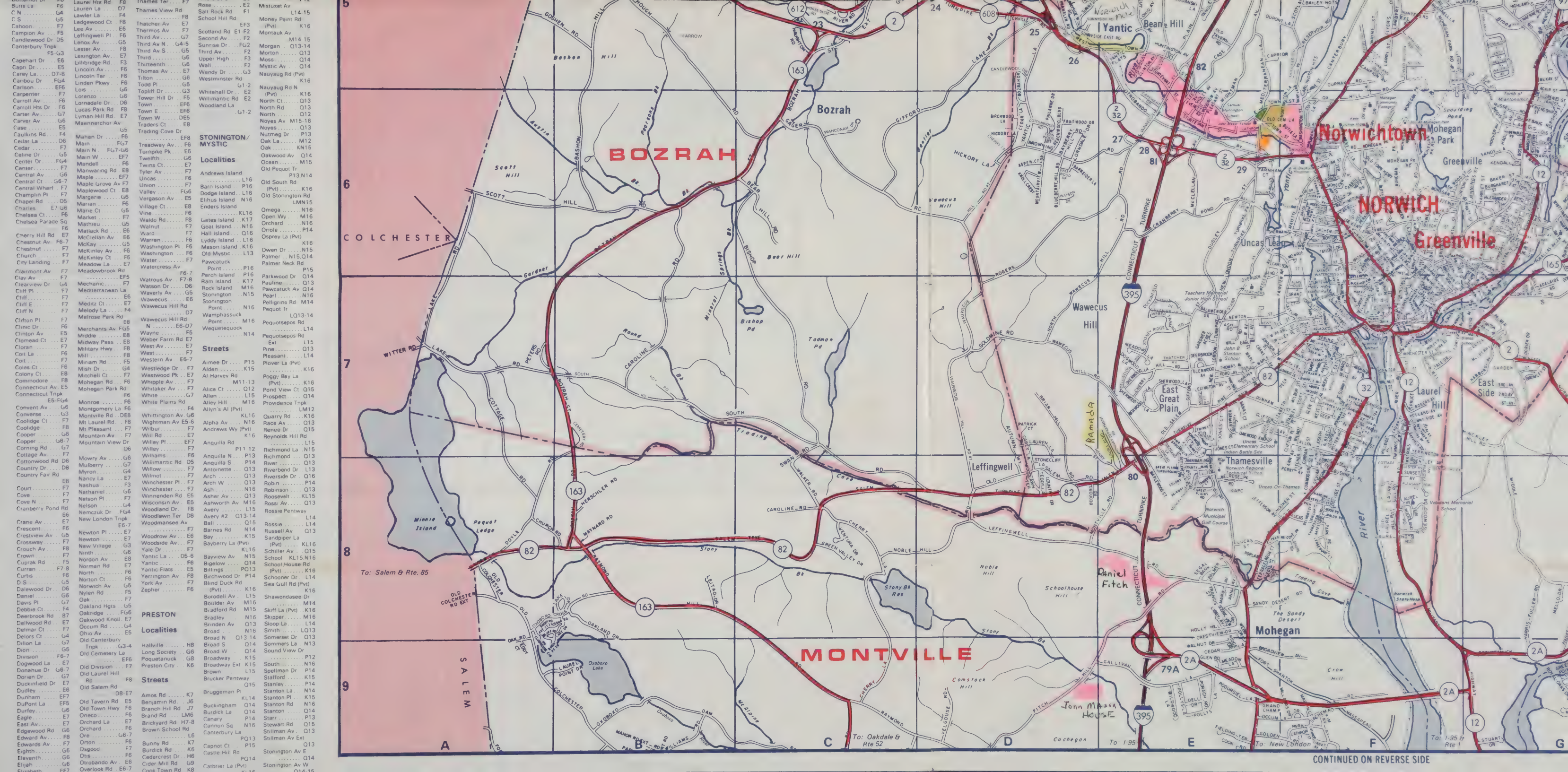
# THE ROSE OF NEW ENGLAND













Meadow Av	Ninaueet Rd	Panston	Robn'Wv	Solar Dr	Upper Canal	Westminster
N15-16	AB15	F9	P13	K12	G3 F6	F9
Meadow Dr	Ningret Av	Pequot	Rock	South Dr	Upper High	Westridge Rd
K12	AB16	H7	E9	F10	G3-4	B15
Meadow La	B16.MN16	Perkins Av	Rocket	Spring Av	K15	Whipple Av
A16		F4	F7	N16	M13	G10
Medical Arts La	Noank Av	Pickering Dr	Ross Hill Rd	Spring	F8	Whippoorwill Rd
F9	A16	F11	R6-7	F8	B16	EF13
Melissa La	Nob Ct	Pine Ter	Ross Hill Rd	Spruce	L15	White
G9	F9	H4	C15	Spuchy Dr	L13	White Rock Rd
Midland Rd	Noonatch Rd	Plateau Rd	Round Hill Rd	State	G7	Wicklund Av
J4	A16	K13.M15	Salem	Stanton Av	M13	Wilgis Dr
Midway Av	Noyes Neck Rd	Pond La	Saratoga Av	Stewart Dr	G5	Will Ct
J4-5	H14-15	F5	J4	Stuart E	N15	Williams N
Miner	Oak	Pond Rd	Saunders	Stuart N	E14	Windward Dr
F4	G6	H11	F15	Summer	F7	Winnapaug Av
Misquamicut Rd	Oak Hill Rd	Pond View Av	Schilke Dr	Sunny Dr	M13	Winnapaug Rd
A15	G3	H14	J5	Sunnyside Dr	E10	Winona Av
Misquamicut Hills	Oak Hill Rd	Pond View Av	Schubert Rd	Sunset Av	F15	Woodbine Dr
Rd	G4	H14	Q14	Surrey Dr	M16	Woodland Av
E14	G6	H14	Q15	Sycamore Rd	EF10	Woodline Dr
Moby Dick Dr	Oaklawm Ter	Pond View Av	Schubert Rd	Taylor	F5	Woody Hill Rd
F13-14	G6	H14	Q15	Tera Pat Dr	M16	Woxadown Av
Mockingbird	Oakwood Av	Pond View Av	Schubert Rd	Thompson Av	M16	Wayland
F10	E15	H14	Q15	Tom Harvey Rd	EF10	Weatherlane Wy
Mohawk Ct	Oceanview Hwy	Prudence	Seaview Dr	Tonkawa Av	F9	Weekapaug Rd
H7	G7-8	D18	L12	Tower	G7	L14
Mohegan Tr	C16	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Tree Top Dr	F9	Wells Ext
Montauk Av	Oceanview	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Tremont	F9	West Dr
F15	D14	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Trolley La	F5	West Rd
Montego Rd	C15-16	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Turtleback Rd	D14-15	Westerly-Bradford
F8	F9	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Twig Dr	P12	Rd HJ6.LM7 8
Morrish Dr	Old Post Rd	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Union	F7	Westerly By-Pass
G4	KL12.N13	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Upland	B15.M16	Westerly Rd
Morrone La	G5	Quail Run	Seaview Dr	Westerly Rd	A16	
Mowrey Rd	G10	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
N13	G10	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Myrtle Av	G10	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Narragansett Av	G6-7	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
N15	G6-7	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Neowan Av	A16	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Nepun Rd	A15	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Nest Dr	P12	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Netherwood	E4	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Newton Av	F7	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Newton Ct	F7	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Newton Pl	F7	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Niantic Av	AB16.Q5	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Nichols	G4	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			
Niles	F5	Quail Run	Seaview Dr			

# ZIP CODES

## CONNECTICUT

### NEW LONDON COUNTY

Baltic	06330
Borough	06340
Bozrah	06334
Colchester	06416
East Lyme	06333
Gales Ferry	06335
Gilman	06336
Glasco	06337
Groton	06340
Borough	06340
Noank	06340
Submarine Base	06349
Hadlyme	06349
Hamover	06350
Jewett City	06351
Lebanon	06249
Montville	06353
Mystic	06355
West Mystic	06358
New London	06320
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	06320
Niantic	06357
Noank	06340
North Stonington	06359
North Westchester	06474
Old Lyme	06370
Old Mystic	06372
Quaker Hill	06375
South Lyme	06376
Stonington	06378
Submarine Base	06349
Taftville	06380
Uncasville	06382
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	06320
Versailles	06383
Voluntown	06384
Waterford	06385
West Mystic	06388
Yantic	06389

**STREET MAP**

**NEW LONDON**

**GROTON • NORWICH**

including

Mystic • Stonington • Waterford • Bozrah

Franklin • Griswold • Ledyard • Lisbon

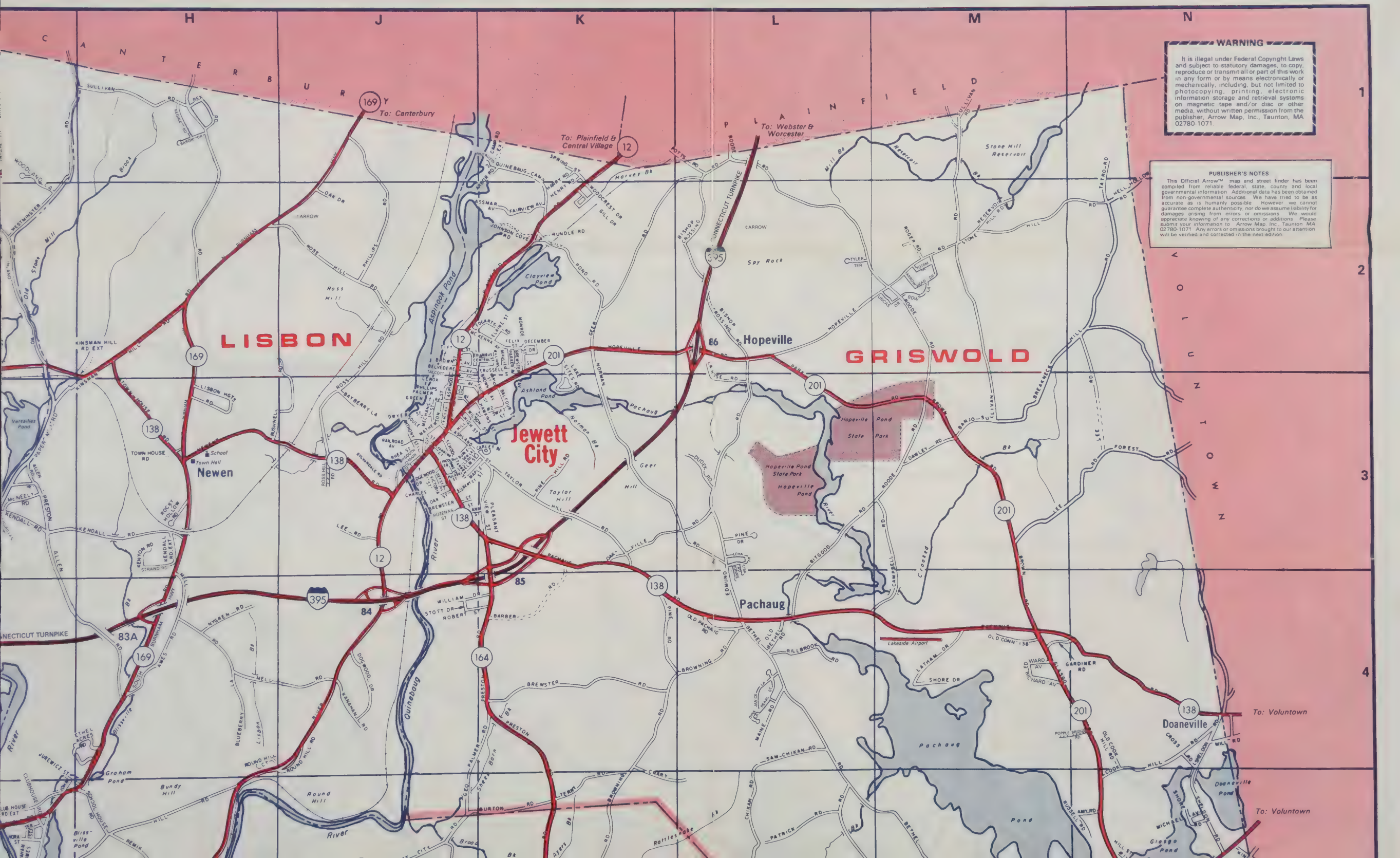
Montville • Preston • Sprague • W. Mystic

and Westerly, R.I.

**16**

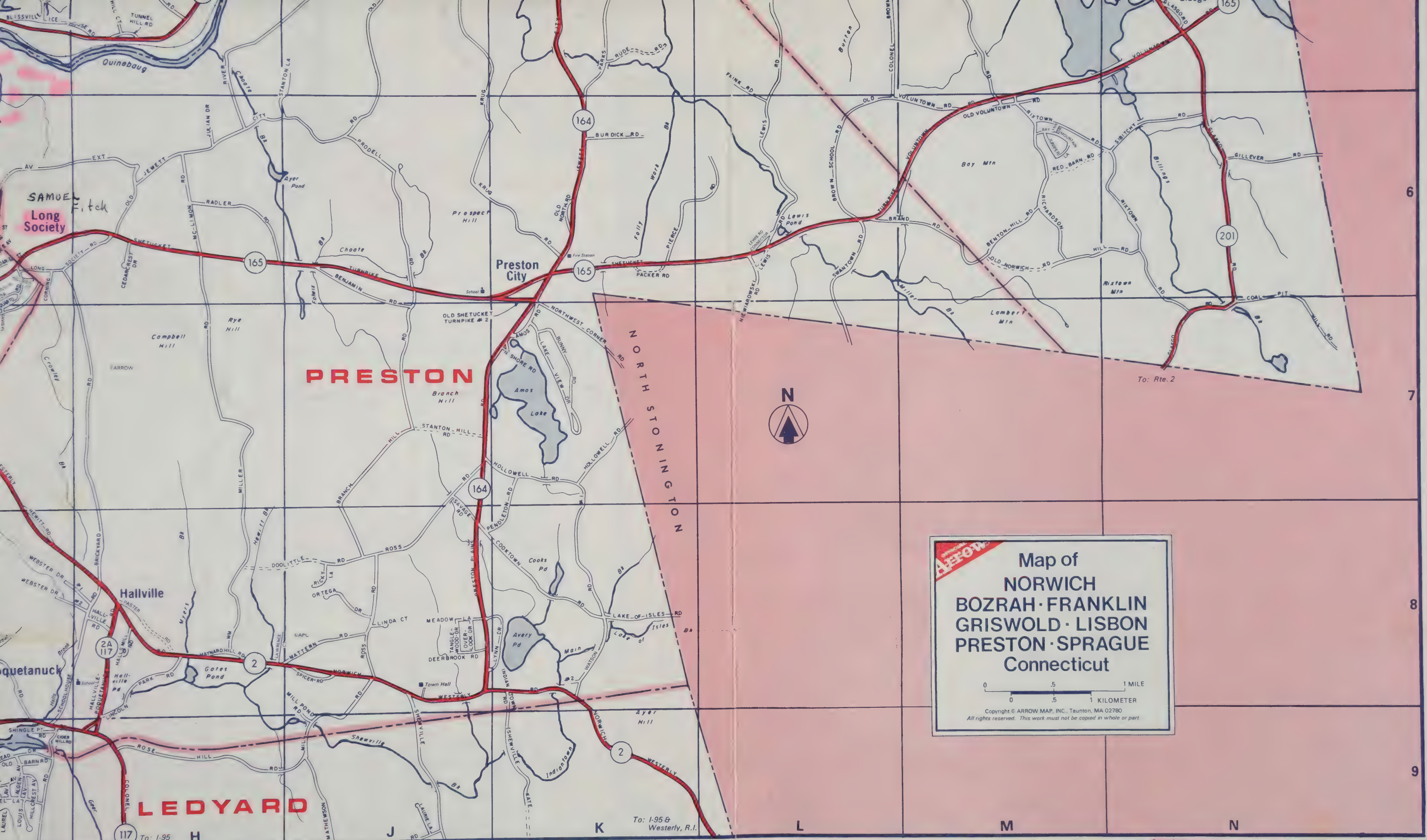
**Communities**

Parks  
Hospitals  
Railroads  
Country Clubs  
Schools • Colleges  
Zip Codes • Airports  
Office & Industrial Parks  
Shopping Centers & Malls



ISBN 1-55751-670-7







[illegible]

E15	Oakwood Rd.	F17	Edsonville	E114	Walbach
E16	Ocean Ave.	F18	Edsonville	E115	Walbach
E17	Omaco Ave.	F19	Edsonville	E116	Walbach
E18	Orchard	F20	Edsonville	E117	Walbach
E19	Pacific	F21	Edsonville	E118	Walbach
E20	Pacific	F22	Edsonville	E119	Walbach
E21	Pacific	F23	Edsonville	E120	Walbach
E22	Pacific	F24	Edsonville	E121	Walbach
E23	Pacific	F25	Edsonville	E122	Walbach
E24	Pacific	F26	Edsonville	E123	Walbach
E25	Pacific	F27	Edsonville	E124	Walbach
E26	Pacific	F28	Edsonville	E125	Walbach
E27	Pacific	F29	Edsonville	E126	Walbach
E28	Pacific	F30	Edsonville	E127	Walbach
E29	Pacific	F31	Edsonville	E128	Walbach
E30	Pacific	F32	Edsonville	E129	Walbach
E31	Pacific	F33	Edsonville	E130	Walbach
E32	Pacific	F34	Edsonville	E131	Walbach
E33	Pacific	F35	Edsonville	E132	Walbach
E34	Pacific	F36	Edsonville	E133	Walbach
E35	Pacific	F37	Edsonville	E134	Walbach
E36	Pacific	F38	Edsonville	E135	Walbach
E37	Pacific	F39	Edsonville	E136	Walbach
E38	Pacific	F40	Edsonville	E137	Walbach
E39	Pacific	F41	Edsonville	E138	Walbach
E40	Pacific	F42	Edsonville	E139	Walbach
E41	Pacific	F43	Edsonville	E140	Walbach
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E44	Pacific	F46	Edsonville	E143	Walbach
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E48	Pacific	F50	Edsonville	E147	Walbach
E49	Pacific	F51	Edsonville	E148	Walbach
E50	Pacific	F52	Edsonville	E149	Walbach
E51	Pacific	F53	Edsonville	E150	Walbach
E52	Pacific	F54	Edsonville	E151	Walbach
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E60	Pacific	F62	Edsonville	E159	Walbach
E61	Pacific	F63	Edsonville	E160	Walbach
E62	Pacific	F64	Edsonville	E161	Walbach
E63	Pacific	F65	Edsonville	E162	Walbach
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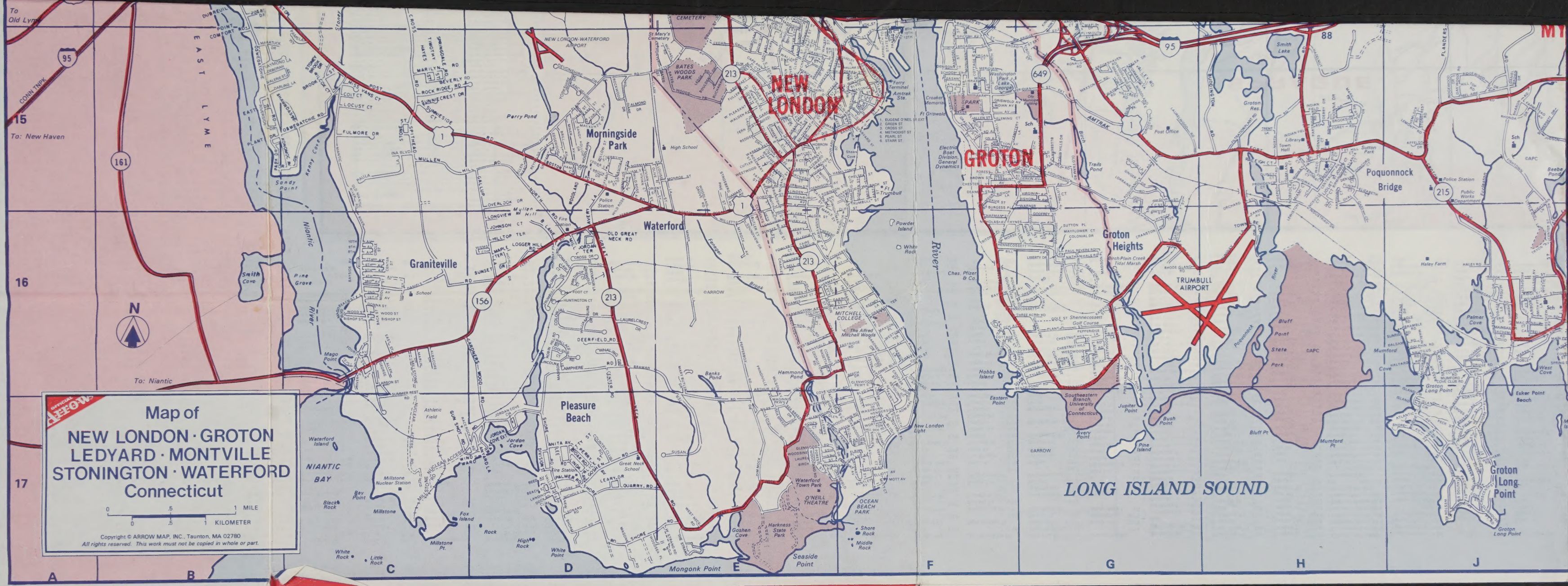
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76	W 1st St	57		77	Jewett City
77		58	Normal, Atchison	78	Rayburg
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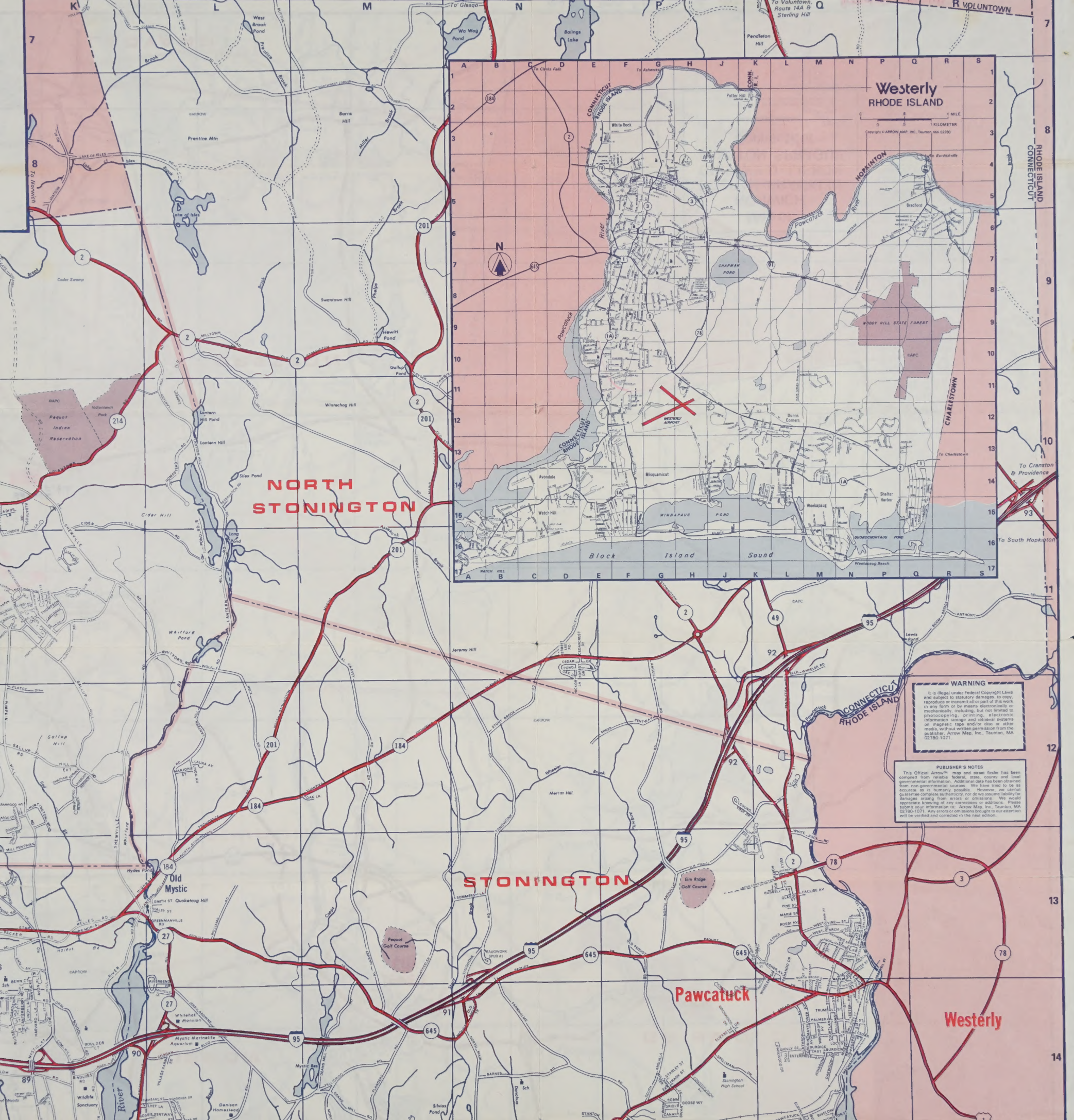


**Map of**  
**NEW LONDON · GROTON**  
**LEDYARD · MONTVILLE**  
**STONINGTON · WATERFORD**  
**Connecticut**

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**NORTH  
STONINGTON**

**STONINGTON**

**Pawcatuck**

**Westerly**

**Westerly  
RHODE ISLAND**

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